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THE TIMES

Are we backing a loser in the Sahara? Page 14

ory leaders to launch campaign for rtnership with unions

mportant policy initiative to ched tomorrow after weeks ate talks with senior TUC rs, the Conservative leader- ll try to convince voters that ty can work amicably with the unions. Mr Prior will be supported by Mrs Thatcher when he tells a conference of Tory trade unionists that a future Tory government will retain all the present Administration's labour legislation

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ative leaders are to n important policy intended to persuade orate that the party will form a working ip with the trade

mpaign to erase the impression of the "union-bashers" will motion tomorrow by atcher, Mr Prior, n spokesman on em- and Lord Thorney- party chairman, at a e of Conservative ionists in Manchester.

nes after weeks of lks between the party nd senior members of C General Council, d to have been through the brokerage Woodrow Wyatt, the r columnist and print- oyer. Party experts on l relations are work- policy document to be l soon after Easter.

mpaign theme is "no to the confrontation engendered by the ill dustrial Relations Act,

ure Conservative gov- will not repeal any of ur legislation of the Government, but will a law enabling the ration to finance postal n trade union elections compel employers to ch ballots to take place places during working measure intended to the chances of es winning power in ns.

Conservative trade whose number is said grown considerably he past few months, may find the new approach difficult to accept, but party leaders are convinced of the overriding necessity of convincing the electorate that they are not inimical to the unions.

In his speech tomorrow Mr Prior is expected to say that neither the unions nor the *public need expect the next* Conservative government to come into office i any vengeful spirit.

The party accepted the position of the unions and would work with them in a practical and constructive way. It would promote change only where experience had shown existing provisions to be unfair or unhelpful.

It is recognized at Conservative Central Office that the Heath Administration lost power partly because of voters' anxiety over the power struggle between the Government and the unions. The emphasis will now be on cooperation rather than confrontation, and the policy document will lay great emphasis on fruitful worker participation in industry.

The Conservatives also do not intend to abolish the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, which was set up by the present Government to facilitate the speedy settlement of disputes and the improvement of labour relations.

In an attempt to prepare the ground for such a policy, Mrs Thatcher has had talks with senior union leaders, particularly those who are among the TUC's six representatives on the National Economic Development Council. She has also had many private discussions with leading employers' organizations, including the engineering employers and the building employers.

The most startling aspect of Mr Prior's intended speech will be his attitude to the closed shop and to recent legislation introduced by Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment.

He is expected to say that he knows that some people want the Conservatives to commit themselves to root-and-branch repeal of the present Government's legislation.

He will add, however, that although he does not deny that there are some very bad parts in the new laws, everyone is aware that in many situations a closed shop is seen by unions and employers alike as improving industrial relations.

Mr Prior is also likely to insist that the Conservative Party is not hostile to trade unionism, that it accepts the important role unions play, and that it is important for the 11 million working people in Britain who are union members to know that.

The unions have a crucial contribution to make towards shaping economic and social policies, he will say, adding that, although Conservatives cannot share the political objectives of many trade unionists, there are many practical subjects over which they can do business amicably.

Lest the party faithful should think that Mr Prior is going out on a limb, Mrs Thatcher will, in a speech to the conference, put the seal of her approval on his speech.

Overall, tomorrow's political exercise adds up to the most serious redirection of Conservative policy on the unions since the disastrous days of late 1970 when the TUC and the Conservative Administration fell out over the Industrial Relations Act.

Leading article, page 15

Stewardesses and other staff of Laker Airways preparing to protest at the Commons yesterday over the Skytrain service licence cancellation. Parliamentary report, page 6.

Lockheed payments linked with Paris woman in new allegations against Prince Bernhard

From Sue Masterman
The Hague, Feb 26

Mr Joop den Uyl, the Dutch Prime Minister, told Parliament here today that he was aware of rumours that Prince Bernhard had used Lockheed money to meet private commitments.

But he refused to guarantee that the commission inquiring into allegations that the American aircraft company passed on about $1.5m (about £700,000) to the Prince Consort would also investigate his private financial transactions.

Mr den Uyl also refused to guarantee that the commission would see an interview with a a well-known American columnist which Dutch television has declined to broadcast, and in which the private commitments are specifically referred to

The Prime Minister was answering questions filed on Wednesday by two MPs which were admitted only after an attached memorandum detailing the rumours had been withdrawn.

The "private commitments" have become the subject of widespread speculation in Holland. *De Telegraaf*, a popular national daily, has quoted a report of the Prince's association with a woman referred to as "Poupette" in Paris. *De Telegraaf* identifies her as a sister of Jean-Noël Grinda, a former French tennis champion, and daughter of a famous French surgeon.

The interview with Jack Anderson, the American columnist, which Dutch television will not show is said to include references to payments of $4,000 a month by Prince Bernhard for maintenance of a former mistress with a daughter aged nine, living in Paris.

The Washington correspondent of the *Algemeen Dagblad*, another large daily paper, says that documents have been found confirming the payment by Lockheed of $100,000 to Prince Bernhard via Paris. In evidence before Senator Church's committee in the United States, reference was made to two payments to the Prince, one of about $1m in 1962 via Switzerland, and one $100,000 via Paris in 1972. Sources close to the Dutch commission believe the documents will be in Holland before the end of the week.

The $100,000 payment, according to the Dutch newspaper, was transferred via Mr Ed Fife, the Lockheed representative in London to another Lockheed representative and personal friend of the Prince in Paris. From there the money was paid into a private account at a rate of $4,000 a month.

The Government is pleased with the Swiss Government's decision to admit the three-man commission into Switzerland to question two important witnesses. They are Mr Fred Meuser, Lockheed's former European sales manager, a Dutch-born American citizen who met Prince Bernhard while serving with the RAF during the war, and Mr Hubert Weisbrod, a Swiss lawyer through whom Lockheed payments passed in the period Prince Bernhard is said to have accepted the company's money.

However, under Swiss law Mr Meuser must obtain Lockheed's *permission before answering* questions concerning his dealings with Lockheed, and Mr Weisbrod can refuse to answer any questions on the grounds that he, as a lawyer, is pledged to secrecy.

The Swiss decision to admit the commission, the first time it has taken such a step is regarded as an important precedent in the Lockheed scandals affecting other countries.

The commission is expected to take longer than the projected six weeks to complete its task.

In the meantime the Dutch Royal Family is keeping firmly to its schedule. An invitation to pay a state visit to Italy has been accepted, and a state visit to The Netherlands by King Gustav of Sweden in June has been announced. Prince Bernhard has a private visit to Latin America scheduled for the end of March. The royal couple are currently spending their annual winter holiday in Lech in Austria.

Court spokesmen declined to comment, as they have done throughout the Lockheed affair, on the latest speculations.

Scandal in Japan, page 10

The day that LBJ was conned all the way

From Fred Emery
Washington, Feb 26

"Damned fine men, General, damned fine men", President Lyndon Johnson, seemingly close to tears, said as he bade a stirring farewell in 1968 to men of the 82nd Airborne Division whom he thought he was sending back to Vietnam to thwart the Vietcong's Tet offensive.

The President, it transpires, was mistaken, "conned" as the *Armed Forces Journal* discloses today in an article describing how Mr Johnson was misled by the division's commanders to say goodbye to the wrong troops. The right troops were attending "an all-day beer bust and barbecue", and by the time the President arrived would have been in no condition to stand in review.

Most of the substitute troops had just returned from Vietnam and were appalled at receiving a send-off to return there, even from a President. Their officers half feared they *would cause a mutiny in* Mr Johnson's presence, since there had been so little time to inform all of them of the charade.

But the response of the men in roaring the Airborne slogan "All the way" so moved President LBJ that he never forgot it.

The story reads like an episode of *M.A.S.H.* or *Catch 22*. Mr Benjamin Schemmer, editor of the *Journal* an authoritative self-styled independent publication with no Pentagon affiliation, admits he has used a little licence in embellishing the details that have dimmed over the years, but it rings true enough.

Mr Johnson visited Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as the first step in a tour of bases during the weekend of February 17, *because he was an emotional* man and felt deeply about having to rush out reinforcements at the height of the Tet fighting. The problem was that he decided on his visit on the spur of the moment—at midnight.

The military bureaucratic delays meant that it took nearly 12 hours for word of the President's impending arrival later that afternoon to reach the 82nd Airborne Division commander. With men of the Vietnam-bound 3rd Brigade already drinking, Brigadier-General Donald Blackburn, the divisional operations

Continued on page 9, col 1

'I'm proud of you': the handshake, photographed in The Times of February 19, 1968.

ven years' jail for nk-raid vicar

icar of St Chad's, Whit- Plymouth, the Rev Care, aged 32, who years held up a bank fake bomb, stole vest- alued at £12,000 and vicarage and a prep- school, was jailed for ears yesterday. Stella aged 59, his housekeeper, was conditionally discharged for taking part in the school raid. Passing sentence, Mr Justice Lawson said: "You are perfectly capable of behaving in a proper Christian manner if you want to. You are perfectly capable of telling the truth if you want to." He said Mrs Bunting had acted very stupidly Page 4

embeb tomb

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's military and civilian ast night signed a new oring pact which pre- eneral elections and a o civilian rule. Under ard, the Revolutionary will relinquish its powers and become a onsultative body Page 8

on prepares

usetts is girding itself presidential primary on Five Democratic can- have moved into Boston w Hampshire, followed Republicans, and issues issues have begun to the city Page 10

Rhodesia talks: Lord Greenhill, emissary of Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, arriving yesterday in Salisbury, Rhodesia, for talks with Mr Ian Smith Page 9

Police Bill: Appeal for committee to go into recess so that Bill can be redrafted 2
Brussels: Mr Jack Jones, the trade union leader, urges the adoption of a 35-hour week throughout the EEC 8
Australia: Pressure grows on Mr Whitlam to resign as leader of the Labour Party after Iraqi funds allegations 10

age, 15
On deprivation in inner om the Bishop of Liver- sit of the Brazilian Pre- rom the Brazilian Ambas- ppointment of the Audi- ral, from Mr John Nott,

articles: Mrs Thatcher's policy; Brazil; the press r
pages 10 and 14
mpbell says that devolu- sky but not as dangerous nothing; Bernard Levin wo women who stood up tion bullies
ge 14
echt Britannia undergoes e modification to comply nadian anti-pollution re- ts for summer visit
ge 11
obinson on new films in Alan Coren on *The Glit- Prices* (BBC 2); Thomas on *Blaise le saucier* Institute); Irving Wardle *idsummer Night's Dream* ter

Sport, pages 12 and 13
Rugby Union: Peter West discusses the likely changes in the England team against Ireland; **Squash rackets:** Mrs McKay set for fifteenth successive triumph in British women's championships; **Racing:** Prospects for two meetings and Kempton Park report
Obituary, page 16
Mr I. D. Margary, Mr Jesse Cast
Business News, pages 17-22
Stock markets: After a bright start sellers got the upper hand. The *FT* Index closed at 410.2, up 1.0
Financial Editor: Anglo American provides an antidote to the news from Africa; European Ferries puts its case to Felixstowe Dock
Business features: Margaret Walters analyses the causes for the failure of Brentford Nylons; Kenneth Owen reports on moves to fit designs of concrete platforms for oil work in the North Sea
Business Diary: Rhodesia has two inflation rates, one for blacks and one for whites

ews	2, 4, 5	Diary	14	Science	16
n News	8	Engagements	16	Snow Report	12
News	9, 10	Features	10, 14	Sport	12, 13
logy	16	Law Report	13	TV & Radio	25
	11	Letters	15	Theatres, etc	11
	17-22	Obituary	16	25 Years Ago	16
	16	Parliament	6	Weather	2
	16	Sale Room	16	Wills	16
rd	26				

Killings of refugees by leaderless Unita troops reported

From Richard Cecil
Pereira d'Eca, Angola, Feb 26

Disturbing accounts of racial killings on a large scale are beginning to emerge from the reports of white Portuguese refugees I have been interviewing in southern Angola. They are the 6,000 refugees of Pereira d'Eca, temporarily living in and around the battered remains of this small town, once of only 1,000 inhabitants.

Ninety per cent are of white or mixed blood. The houses are covered with slogans in support of the Union for Total Independence (Unita); but, ironically, it is from Unita that these refugees have fled. Most families in Pereira d'Eca mourn the loss of close relations, and these were killed by Unita soldiers not by the Popular Movement (MPLA).

Early last month, after the desertion of their officers, there was a complete breakdown in Unita discipline. In Sa da Bandeira, a town some 220 miles north of the border with South-West Africa (Namibia), the murders were committed by well-armed and uncontrolled Unita troops shortly before the advancing MPLA and Cuban forces took the town.

Eduardo Batista, aged 14, and his brother George told me of *the killings as they waited on* an airstrip in southern Angola for evacuation by a C130 Hercules aircraft of the South African Air Force. "They killed our father and took everything away because we were white", the boy stated.

Another young refugee, Joseph Sarlavisa from Sa da Bandeira, had seen Unita soldiers stop a friend, Senhora Isabel Dasilva, a clerk with a commercial bank in the town, as she drove through with her husband. "They first accused them of being members of the Portuguese Liberation Army", Joseph said.

"Then the soldiers pulled the couple out, shot them and drove off in their car. They were shot because they were white, and for their car."

One family said they had seen their cousin being killed by several Unita soldiers using bayonets. It was estimated that more than 100 Portuguese white civilians—men, women and children—were killed in Sa da Bandeira alone by Unita troops.

However, if Unita was responsible for most of the Portuguese murders in Sa da Bandeira, in other parts of Angola the other Western-backed movement, the National Front (FNLA), and the MPLA have treated them equally viciously.

In Huambo, the MPLA, who were described by a South African officer as "regrettably better disciplined than the other two", killed any Portuguese they could find along with any FNLA and Unita troops who had not had time to escape.

The Unita soldiers I have seen and talked to are low-calibre African peasants who have been handed a rifle and a uniform. It is clear that without the discipline of their officers, and taking advantage of the weapons provided, they have indulged in killing with race hatred as its prime motive.

The Unita and South African forces in Pereira d'Eca so far have tolerated each other's presence. As I left, it was becoming increasingly doubtful whether this uneasy calm could be maintained much longer.

The South Africans said they could not be responsible for my safety if I mixed too freely with Unita.

New Warsaw Pact move on force reductions

Vienna, Feb 26.—United States tactical nuclear capability in West Germany would be significantly reduced, then numerically "frozen" under new Nato proposals for force reductions, Western diplomats said today.

This is part of a Western package offering a nuclear cutback in Central Europe for the first time.

Soviet block sources meanwhile disclosed what they called an important concession; willingness to accept first-stage cuts limited to United States and Soviet forces, and the dropping of a demand that nine other nations should pledge themselves at the outset to make fixed national force reductions.

Nato diplomats said that the communists ignored the West's basic demand for bigger cuts by the Warsaw Pact because of its superiority in ground forces and tanks in Central Europe.

Soviet block sources said the new communist plan envisaged the withdrawal of 20,000 to 30,000 Americans, and 22,000 to 33,000 Soviet troops. Previous communist proposals demanded equal cuts of 10,000 by both sides.

Belgium, Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, East and West Germany, Holland, Luxembourg and Poland would freeze forces based in Central Europe at present levels, while committing themselves in principle to reductions in 1977-78.

The communist side has abandoned demands that these nations should make advance commitments on numbers to be reduced in the second phase. The size of such cuts would be open to negotiation, a Warsaw Pact spokesman said.

Communist demands for equal cuts, rejected by the West, have been slightly toned down in favour of equivalent cuts.

Western negotiators said that the communist proposals were ambiguous, and it was unclear whether they would allow a well-defined separation between first and second phases.

Soviet block sources said that Nato demands for a collective common ceiling for each alliance remained unacceptable. Eventually each of the 11 nations involved would have to accept national ceilings. This is rejected by the West.—Reuter.

Mr Wilson's Pimpernel fails to conquer the Opposition

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher may be the cold war witch of the Western world, but Mr Wilson made our a claim yesterday to be its Scarlet Pimpernel. Clearly upset at all the publicity the Tory leader is getting from the Kremlin over her warnings *about appeasement and disarmament*, the Prime Minister revealed in the Commons that for the past twenty years he has been whisking people regularly out of the Soviet Union, apparently from under the very noses of Mr Brezhnev, Mr Kruschev and Mr Bulganin.

Mr Wilson's opening came as Mrs Thatcher steamed into battle with the demand that he should concentrate on seeing that the country was properly defended and that the Government's diplomatic policy should ensure that people could fly to freedom from communist tyranny if they wished.

Up jumped Walter Mitty from the Government front bench. While he did not like to talk about such deeds in public, Mr Wilson said, if Mrs Thatcher would like to inquire she would find out how many people over the last twenty years had come out of the Soviet Union as a result of his requests and pressures.

As Tory MPs chuckled merrily at such an insight into the Prime Minister's private heroics, Mr Wilson, looking decidedly ruffled, shouted that it was not a laughing matter. Had not Moshe Dayan made a statement saying that he (Mr Wilson) was responsible for the release of Ruth Alexandrovich? Then there was the case of the Panovs.

As the Tories remained resolutely unconvinced, Mr Wilson angrily declared that Mrs Thatcher was stupid enough on her return from Romania to publish a list of the people whose release she had asked for.

That was clearly not the way in which true Scarlet Pimpernels operated and he was happy to tell the House that a much bigger number were released this week as a result of representations he had made.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Brazil President undeterred by Labour vote

Brasilia, Feb 26.—The vote of the national executive committee of the British Labour Party deploring the planned state visit of President Geisel of Brazil will have no effect on his plans, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today in Brasilia. "The vote in no way alters the invitation extended to President Geisel who will visit Britain probably from May 4 to May 8."

A diplomatic source said it would be impossible for the president of any country, whatever its political tendency, to be received abroad with the unanimous support of all the political groupings in the country visited.

Observers in Brasilia said the vote had been expected and was understood as an initiative common to a regime of free manifestation of thought such as the British.—Reuter.

Callaghan move: Mr Callaghan, Foreign Secretary, had earlier strongly urged President Geisel to pay his state visit to London as planned, despite the vote (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Although confined to his home with a cold, Mr Callaghan took the trouble to telephone the Brazilian Ambassador on Wednesday to discuss the significance of the executive's move.

President Geisel is to pay an official visit to France from April 26 to 28.

The main difficulty, taking a narrow political view, is that while it is fairly well accepted in Britain that the executive committee may go one way and a Labour Government go the other (but the Common Market is an obvious example) that kind of split is harder to explain or understand abroad.

MP withdraws: Mr Edward Graham, Labour MP for Enfield, Edmonton, announced yesterday that he is withdrawing his name as one of the chief sponsors of the Commons motion urging that *no invitation should* be extended to President Geisel (the Press Association reports).

Mr Graham said: "Perhaps I did not think carefully enough about the implications when I signed this motion. Now I should prefer not to be one of the sponsors."

Mr Graham is the second Labour MP to withdraw his support for the motion. Dr Dickson Mabon, Greenock and Port Glasgow, withdraw his name and immediately signed a counter-motion supporting better relations between Britain and Brazil.

Mr Benjamin Ford, Labour MP for Bradford, North, who is chairman of the Anglo-Brazilian parliamentary group, has already tried to point out that Brazilian orders for warships are an important source of employment in Britain.

Leading article, page 15

The SAA Flying Hotel to Jo'burg.

The Flying Hotel: the fastest way to enjoy your trip to South Africa.

You want to enjoy your trip to South Africa. But you don't want to waste time. So insist on SAA's Flying Hotel. It takes off every day to Jo'burg, and on Monday the service is non-stop—only 12½ hours. The fastest flight to South Africa.

The Flying Hotel is a Jumbo 747B, thoughtfully modified to give you the luxury of a grand hotel. You enjoy leg-stretching comfort and a specially designed armchair seat.

There's a maitre d'hotel and his trained staff to look after your every need; eight kitchens prepare gourmet cuisine; a specially selected wine list offers you the finest South African wines.

There's a choice of six stereo music channels... or you can enjoy a big feature film (IATA regulations require us to make a small charge).

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HOME NEWS

Appeal for committee recess so that Police Bill can be redrafted

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

The Police Bill, which proposes new disciplinary procedures for police forces in England and Wales, ran into serious trouble yesterday; both the Opposition and some Labour MPs called on the Government to allow the standing committee considering the Bill to "go into recess" for a fortnight so that ministers could do some redrafting.

Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has already said that the Bill will lessen the effectiveness of the police disciplinary system, "reducing it to the level of criminal justice, which is notoriously inadequate for dealing with corrupt policemen".

In a letter to Dr Summerskill, Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, who is in charge of the Bill in standing committee, Mr Michael Alison, opposition front-bench spokesman on Home Office affairs, said yesterday: "I ask you to bring to the notice of the Home Secretary the appeal made by Mr Ian Mikardo at this morning's sitting of the committee that we should go into a recess for a fortnight. This appeal fully reflects the Opposition's wishes, and, had it been in order to vote upon the proposal, it is clear that a majority of the committee would have supported it.

"The need for a short recess is now self-evident and paramount. The Bill, as it stands has very few friends in the committee; it has few, if any, friends outside. The various police organizations and the Association of County Councils at least have all registered their profound dissatisfaction with it in the light of our committee scrutiny." He referred to Sir Robert's remarks, quoted above.

Matters in the committee had reached an unedifying point, Mr Alison said, when the two government ministers on successive sittings had to make deliberately long-winded speeches to prolong the sitting and avert a vote.

"But the recess I appeal for is not for passive or negative reasons", he wrote. "On the contrary, both the Opposition and a number of your own colleagues believe that the Ombudsman alternative merits further careful consideration, not least in the light of the manifest lack of conviction in the committee that the Bill's existing proposals are adequate. "Obviously the Ombudsman approach, or something akin to it, needs to be discussed and weighed carefully with police representative bodies and with the local authorities."

It was for that reason that he supported Mr Mikardo's appeal. In the light of criticisms made in the committee, Mr Alison was convinced that a constructive and workable alternative to the Bill's proposals could be formulated on the basis of a section in the original working group report circulated in the committee yesterday morning.

Electoral reform 'could save UK'

By Robert Parker

The Liberals yesterday launched an appeal for electoral reform with Mr Thorpe, the party leader, saying that proportional representation could save the United Kingdom from the break-up threatened by devolution.

The appeal, the first big campaign on reform since the last election, included a lobby of Parliament by about 300 party members, a march, and a rally last night at the Friends' Meeting House, Euston Road. The campaign was organized by the Liberal Action Group for Electoral Reform (Lager).

At the rally Mr Thorpe said opinion polls showed that the Scottish National Party, under the present system of voting, had reached the point at which it stood to gain substantially more seats than it would be entitled to under a fully proportional system.

"Bluntly, it means that if elections were now held for a Scottish assembly using the existing system the SNP would have an enormous majority, Labour would be a minority and the Conservatives would be lucky to win a seat. Above all, it would set off an irresistible demand for independence from the Scottish nationalists", Mr Thorpe said.

"If that scenario seems alarming, consider what the result would be at a general election in the same circumstances. It is very likely that the SNP would win a high percentage of the 71 Scottish seats and hold the balance of power at Westminster."

The union, he said, could be saved only by a federal system with fewer seats at Westminster and proportional representation for elections to the Scottish and Welsh assemblies.

Since the early 1960s there had been a system of adversary politics, with neither main party appealing to the middle ground and extremists becoming more influential.

Liberal Party policy is that the present system is neither fair nor democratic and allows for neither the expression of majority will nor representation of minorities.

Mr Russell Johnston, Liberal MP for Inverness and leader of the Scottish Liberal Party, said the present system was unjust. "This country has been ruled for 30 years by minorities, sometimes by relatively small minorities, as now, when we have a government that received 39 per cent of the vote, that has claimed the 'will of the people' and has boasted that it had a total mandate for its manifestos".

Mortgage interest cut

The Labour-controlled Coventry City Council yesterday cut by a half per cent its mortgage interest rate to borrowers. The new rate is 10½ per cent.

Improved rights proposed for tenant farmers' famili

By Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent

Tenant farmers will be entitled to claim the right to work land against the wishes of owners, under proposals tabled in Parliament yesterday. The Government wants to curtail the right of an owner to repossess his farms and to improve the chances of the families of tenants to remain on it.

Mr Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, tabled seven new clauses to the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill laying down conditions under which the Agricultural Land Tribunal will judge claims by spouses, siblings and children of dead tenants against landlords in England and Wales.

The clauses are aimed mainly at sons who have worked on their fathers' farms for many years and tenants who invest in their holdings. There are more than 60,000 rented holdings in England and Wales, compared with more than 100,000 worked by owner-occupiers.

If the clauses receive the Royal Assent the scheme will start next January. Opposition MPs failed yesterday to have them debated on the floor of the House. They said that such a radical change in the tenancy laws should not be attached as an afterthought to a miscellaneous package of legislation.

The new clauses are watered down from proposals made by Labour MPs last year. They call for automatic succession after the death of a tenant. Mr Peart wants to make the claimant prove that he or she is eligible, rather than simply make the owner have to prove otherwise.

Claimants will need to show evidence that they have worked on the holding for at least five of the seven years before the death of the tenant. A full-time course of studies in agriculture of up to three years will count towards the five.

The tribunal will be expected to take account of whether the claimant is named as successor in the tenant's will and whether he or she is fit, capable and able to afford the cost of running the holding. Landlords' views will also be considered, and the wishes expressed in the will of the tenant will confer an overriding claim against other applicants.

Holdings on which a notice to quit was issued before the tenant died and smallholdings provided by government agencies will be excluded. One important aspect absent from Mr Peart's clauses is the impact of capital transfer tax on a tenancy handed down to a relative by order of the tribunal.

The clauses are similar to suggestions from the National Farmers' Union and Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. But they differ from the proposals of the Country Landowners' Association. The union's dilemma is that it represents owners and tenants. Many owners belong to the union and the landowners' association.

The landowners' association said yesterday that the clauses were hastily conceived, and too complex and would harm a well tried relationship between owners and tenants. "The door will be virtually closed for new tenants in the agricultural industry", it added.

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Record-breakers celebrate: Mr Roy Mullender, from Fareham, Hampshire, skipper of the ketch Great Britain II, celebrating yesterday with his wife, Jean, and fellow members of the combined Services crew after berthing at Dover. The ketch was the British entry in the *Financial Times* Sydney to England clipper race and broke by 49½ hours the 69-day record for the run, which was set 107 years ago.

Mr Prentice may fight as an independent

By Penny Symon

Mr Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development, who suffered a serious setback on Wednesday night in his campaign to remain as MP for Newham, North-east, said yesterday that he would consider standing as an independent candidate in the constituency.

Mr Prentice's supporters failed to gain any of the key posts in the constituency elections at the annual meeting, and Mr Anthony Kelly, the leader of the anti-Prentice faction, was elected secretary by 46 votes to 40.

Although disappointed at the composition of the new hierarchy in the constituency, Mr Prentice has resolved to carry on fighting the original decision not to readopt him as Labour candidate at the next election, which was agreed to by 29 votes to 19 last July.

"It is a very difficult decision to make whether or not to stand as an independent candidate, and one which I have given a lot of thought to", he said. "I would only do it if all else failed and I would hope that the situation would not arise, but the possibility is in my mind."

There are still three stages left in his fight to remain as MP, and Mr Prentice gave notice to his opponents that he would campaign vigorously throughout all of them.

"First, some of the wards that support me intend to send resolutions calling for the reversal of the original decision, and I hope that they will be discussed at the next general management committee meeting on March 24, or perhaps at a special meeting, where I would expect to be invited to speak. If those resolutions fail, there is still the report of Mr Ronald Hayward, Labour Party general secretary, to be considered."

Mr Hayward, who attended the meeting at Newham on Wednesday, said he thought it had been satisfactory and conducted in a comradely way. He will report to the party's national executive committee probably next month, or early in April.

Mr Prentice said: "If the NEC goes against me the last stage is at the party's annual conference in the autumn, where the NEC's report will be debated, and I would make an attempt to get the section about me referred back. Only if all this fails will I consider standing as an Independent, although I prefer the title Democratic Labour. I wish to exhaust all those possibilities first, though."

Meanwhile it is possible that Mr Kelly and his supporters will ask Transport House for permission to hold a selection conference to choose a new candidate, a move that Mr Prentice would fight.

The name of Mr Andrew Bevan, chairman of the Young Socialists, is being canvassed as a possible candidate. Mr Bevan, who lives in the constituency, attended Wednesday's meeting, but it is likely that there will be a number of left-wingers who will put their names forward for selection as soon as possible.

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By Diana Gedd

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Lawyers and politicians criticize commissioner

By Clive Borrell

Lawyers and politicians reacted angrily yesterday to remarks made by Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, on Wednesday, when he suggested that the Police Bill was inadequate for the prosecution of corrupt policemen.

In his speech Sir Robert said the Bill as it stood might lessen the effectiveness of the present disciplinary system "by reducing it to the level of criminal justice, which is notoriously inadequate for dealing with corrupt policemen".

Of the 46 officers under suspension from duty, 10 were awaiting trial, 24 were awaiting a decision from the Director of Public Prosecutions, and 12 were the subject of serious disciplinary inquiries.

The Police Federation, which represents 100,000 police officers in England and Wales, said yesterday that Sir Robert's remarks would make those awaiting trial wonder if they could now receive a fair trial, especially as the commissioner claimed that half the officers tried by jury during the past four years had been acquitted, although some of them must have been guilty.

Mr Jeffrey Gordon, speaking for the British Legal Association, said: "He clearly wishes to show no mercy even to those who are found not guilty

"In effect he wishes to supplant the views of the judiciary and Parliament with those of the police chief, which heralds the approach to a police state.

"He himself is at fault in the continuing and considerable delays in bringing prosecutions where allegations against police officers are made."

Mr Frank Hooley, Labour MP for Sheffield, Heeley, attacked Sir Robert yesterday for his implication that there was now stronger discipline in the Metropolitan Police because he had said that nearly four hundred officers had been obliged to leave since he took over. "I wonder if there is any other public body in this country employing 20,000 people which over four years has had 400 members of its staff depart under a cloud of suspicion"

Mr Mikardo tries to rally left for spending debate

By Our Political Staff

The Government will defend its proposals for public spending changes in a two-day debate in the Commons, opening on March 8, but ministers have not decided yet whether to ask the House to "approve" the White Paper or just "take note" of it.

No big left-wing revolt is expected, although a few of the *Tribune* group and Mr James Sillars and Mr John Robertson, founders of the breakaway Scottish Labour Party, will either vote against or abstain.

The Conservatives are pressing for two days of government time for the debate, but it seemed clear last night that the Opposition would be prepared to give one of their supply days in addition to the day offered by the Government to allow for the full debate

The party will table a reasoned amendment expressing its view that the cuts are too small and too late.

Mr Ian Mikardo, Labour MP for Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, a leading member of the *Tribune* group, tried to rally the hesitant forces of the left in a speech last night. It is expected that the group will table an amendment on which it could vote without embarrassing the Government.

Mr Mikardo, at a constituency meeting, replied to a speech by Mr Healey, the Chancellor, to the Parliamentary Labour Party on Wednesday. "Denis Healey's contention that the real opposition to his policy comes from the Tories and not from the Labour movement is, in one of his own elegant phrases, 'poppycock,'" he said.

Dr Herrema is overcome while giving evidence

Dr Tiede Herrema, aged 53, the kidnapped Dutch industrialist, broke down in the witness box at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday as he was questioned about his ordeal.

He was asked by Mr Noel MacDonald, for the prosecution, to contrast his experiences with the time he was a prisoner of war. Counsel said: "I take it you had experience in the last war and know what you are talking about?"

Dr Herrema replied: "Yes, that is so." Then tears came into his eyes, he could not speak and asked for a glass of water.

Mr Justice Pringle, the president, said: "We shall be adjourning in a few minutes", but Dr Herrema answered: "That is not necessary, but please do not talk about prisoner-of-war camps."

Mr MacDonald described earlier how Dr Herrema had cited the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war to try to persuade his alleged kidnappers, Marian Coyle, aged 21, and Eddie Gallagher, aged 27, to improve the conditions in which he was being kept.

Dr Herrema said that in the first house in which he had been held he spent five or six days in a flea-infested bed with his wrists and feet bound

His eyes were covered and he was given "rough" food which he had to eat with his fingers. He continued: "I explained to Marian Coyle that the conditions were terrible and that it was against all conventions of good human rights.

"I asked if it was necessary to do it this way. I did get the impression that it helped a bit, and at least they allowed me to take off the blindfold."

Dr Herrema also said that the first day Mr Gallagher explained to him why he had been kidnapped. He added: "He explained that he was using me as a ransom for three prisoners, Rose Dugdale, Jim Hyland and Kevin Mallon, and that I would be shot within 48 hours if these three prisoners were not released.

"It was clear that he expected that they would be released."

Army documents 'cannot be traced'

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, said in a Commons written reply yesterday that "an extensive search in official files" had uncovered no trace of the documents referred to as "confidential army memoranda" in *The Times* on Tuesday.

He said, however, that the memorandum attributed to "a lieutenant-colonel at the Army's headquarters at Thiepval Barracks" was a document written by a retired army officer. It had no official status.

"It goes without saying that the contents of the alleged memoranda do not reflect government policy."

The documents referred to by Mr Mason were highly critical of the role of the press in Northern Ireland, suggesting that journalists in the province were writing stories detrimental to the work of the security forces.

Leading article and letter, page 15

Fleet Street tour by Queen and the Duke

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh made a tour of Fleet Street yesterday, visiting *The Evening News*, *Daily Mail*, *Evening Standard* and *Daily Express* buildings in the morning and *The Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mirror* in the afternoon.

As they left to return to Buckingham Palace, the Queen told Lord Goodman, chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association: "It has been a most interesting day."

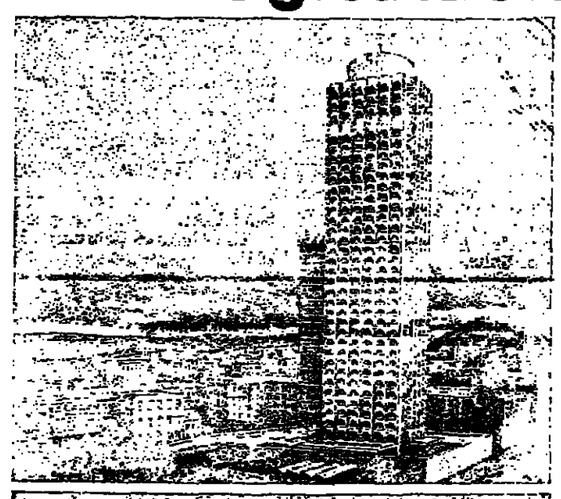
At *The Daily Telegraph* they were greeted by Lord Hartwell, chairman and editor-in-chief, and then went to see the women's page department, where proofs for a future feature on Princess Anne were shown to them.

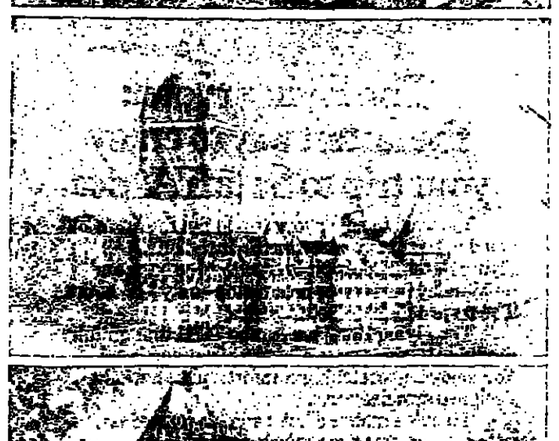
They were received at the *Daily Mirror* by Mr Edward Pickering, the chairman, and toured several departments including the telephoto-teleprinter copy room, the editorial department, the library and the *Sporting Life* data bank.

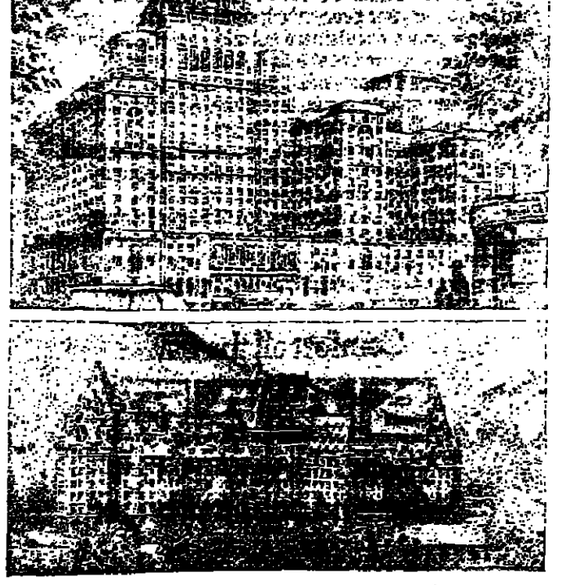
NUT inquiry call

The National Union of Teachers should carry out an urgent inquiry into discrimination against woman teachers over promotion, the union executive recommends in a memorandum to be submitted to the NUT's annual conference in Scarborough in April.

The great hotels of Canada.







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They range Canada from coast to coast.

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MONTREAL

Le Chateau Champlain, an hotel where French and English cultures combine to give an exciting atmosphere and excellent cuisine.

Very much a city hotel, Le Chateau Champlain is ideally suited to businessmen, with comprehensive conference amenities, 614 rooms, shopping and theatre facilities and, for entertainment, Le Caf 'Conc', home of Canada's Can-Can.

QUEBEC

Le Chateau Frontenac: overlooking the St. Lawrence, this is certainly one of the finest hotels in the world. History comes out of the walls. And some of the best food in North America out of the kitchens.

Outside: the quaint, cobbled streets of the old quarter of Quebec City.

Inside: world famous old-world charm and hospitality. Delightful rooms. Sumptuous comfort.

If you're ever in or near Quebec, Le Chateau Frontenac is the place to stay – for as long as possible.

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Lavish with comfort and entertainment, the Royal York has 1,600 air-conditioned guest rooms, a unique double spiral staircase, a whole shopping arcade and full services.

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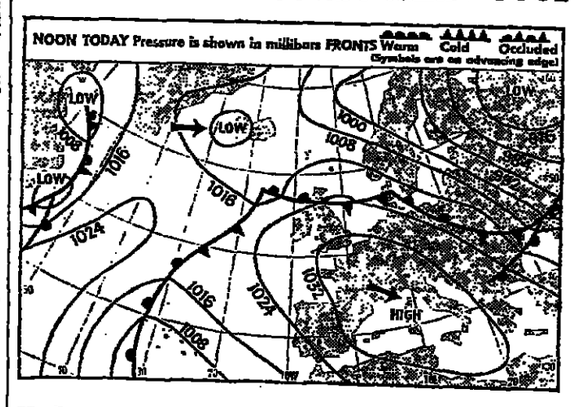
Weather forecast and recordings



Today

Sun rises: 6.52 am. Sun sets: 5.36 pm
Moon rises: 5.19 am. Moon sets: 3.21 pm
New moon: February 29.
Lighting up: 6.6 pm to 6.20 am.
High water: London Bridge, 12.19 pm, 6.6m (21.5ft). Avonmouth, 5.36 am, 11.8m (38.6ft); 6.0 pm, 11.9m (39.1ft). Dover, 9.37 am, 5.8m (19.1ft); 9.59 pm, 6.0m (19.8ft). Hull, 4.33 am, 6.4m (21.0ft); 4.45 pm, 6.5m (21.4ft). Liverpool, 9.40 am, 8.4m (27.7ft); 10.10 pm, 8.4m (27.5ft).

Pressure will remain high over S Britain while a trough of low pressure crosses N Scotland.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, Central S England, Channel Islands: Dry, cloudy, possibly sunny intervals; wind SW, light; max temp 11 to 12°C (52 to 55°F).

East Anglia, Midlands, E, Central N England: Dry, variable cloud, some sunny spells; wind SW, light; very mild; max temp 13°C (55°F).

SW England, S Wales: Mainly cloudy, occasional drizzle dying out; wind SW, light; mild; max temp 10°C (50°F).

N Wales, NW England: Dry, rather cloudy, sunny intervals; wind SW, light or moderate; mild; max temp 10 to 13°C (50 to 55°F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Mainly cloudy, occasional drizzle in places; wind SW, light or moderate; mild; max temp 11 or 12°C (52 to 54°F).

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Mostly dry in S with brightish intervals; in N, becoming br mild at first, colder l

Sea passages: S Strait of Dover: Win ate or fresh; se moderate.

English Channel George's Channel: W. or moderate; sea sli

Yesterday

London: Temp: ma 6 pm, 12°C (54°F); to 6 am, 8°C (46°F 6 pm, 66 per cent. R 6 pm, nil. Sun, 24hr Bar, mean sea level, millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars=29.53i

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	f	10	50	Budapest	s	9	48	Istanbul	c	2	36	Munich	s	12	54
Algiers	f	15	59	Cardiff	c	9	48	Jersey	c	8	46	Naples	s	13	55
Amsterdm	c	9	48	Cologne	c	9	48	L Palmas	s	19	66	Nice	s	15	59
Athens	f	11	52	Copenhgn	s	9	48	Lisbon	s	14	57	Oslo	s	8	46
Barcelona	s	14	57	Dublin	r	12	54	Locarno	s	11	52	Paris	c	9	48
Beirut	c	10	50	Edinburgh	c	10	50	London	c	11	52	Rome	s	14	57
Belfast	c	11	52	Florence	s	16	61	Luxembrg	c	5	41	Ronldswy	c	9	48
Berlin	c	8	46	Funchal	c	16	61	Madrid	s	12	54	Stockhlm	s	9	48
Bermuda	c	21	70	Geneva	s	9	48	Majorca	s	15	59	Tel Aviv	c	11	52
Biarritz	s	16	59	Gibraltar	c	14	57	Malaga	s	15	59	Venice	s	10	50
Birmingham	f	12	54	Guernsey	c	8	46	Malta	s	13	55	Vienna	f	13	55
Bristol	c	11	52	Helsinki	s	5	41	Manchstr	c	11	52	Warsaw	c	5	41
Brussels	c	8	46	Innsbruck	r	12	54	Moscow	sl	1	34	Zurich	s	10	50

Overseas selling price
Austria, Sch 15; Belgi
Canaries, Pes 40; Denma
Finland, Fmk 2.50; Fran
Germany, Dmk 2.00; Gr
Holland, Dfl 1.75; Italy,
Luxembourg, Lfr 30; Malei
Malta, 9c; Norway, Kr 4
Esc 30; Spain, Pes
Skr 2.75; Switzerland, SF
Canada, $1.00; Yugoslav

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HOME NEWS

Vicar who held up bank with a fake bomb and committed burglaries jailed for seven years

From Our Correspondent
Exeter

A Devon clergyman who held up a bank only a few miles from his vicarage and committed several burglaries, stealing cash and property to a total value of more than £19,000, was jailed at Exeter Crown Court yesterday for seven years.

The Rev Stephen Care, aged 32, Vicar of St Chad's, Whitleigh, Plymouth, the bachelor son of a St Ives fisherman, admitted robbing Lloyds Bank, Southway, Plymouth, of £1,775, and committing burglaries at the Collaton St Mary vicarage, Buckfast Abbey and a preparatory school at Paignton. He asked for four offences of burglary, two of theft and two of obtaining money by deception to be taken into consideration.

Mrs Stella Bunting, aged 59, his housekeeper, pleaded not guilty to taking part in the bank robbery but admitted being jointly concerned with Mr Care in the burglary at the school. The court agreed that the charge to which she had pleaded not guilty should not be proceeded with and should stay on the file.

Mrs Bunting was conditionally discharged for two years, Mr Justice Lawson saying she was a perfectly respectable, aging lady who had been involved in the offence by Mr Care.

Mr Neil Butterfield, for the prosecution, said that a common feature of most of the offences was that Mr Care used the knowledge gained as a priest to execute the crimes, breaking into houses and institutions where he had been welcomed as a priest.

In a statement issued after the case, the Bishop of Exeter, the Right Rev Eric Mercer, said: "I am sure I am not speaking only for myself when I express my concern for the Rev Stephen Care in his present unhappy circumstances. If the Church in Devon fails to recognize and to meet the needs of this young priest, then I must, as bishop of the diocese, accept responsibility for such failure and seek to find ways to ensure, in so far as it is humanly possible, that such a thing never happens again."

The bishop expressed sympathy with all those who had been hurt, adding: "I see no useful purpose in making any public statement as to the future ministerial standing of Mr Care. Suffice it to say that every bishop in his consecration is given the charge 'Be so merciful that you be not too remiss: so minister discipline that you forget not mercy'."

Mr Butterfield said Mr Care visited Buckfast Abbey on several occasions and as a priest had easy and untroubled access to all parts of the abbey. He persuaded parishioners to take him there in their cars, and would detach himself long enough to perpetrate the theft, the stolen property being carried by the unsuspecting parishioner in the boot of his or her car.

Of the robbery at Lloyds Bank, Mr Butterfield said that in the summer of last year Mr Care was short of money. He entertained on an expensive scale and had expensive tastes.

The day before the robbery he telephoned to the bank and pretended he was a simple, uneducated countryman. He spoke to the manager in a deep Devon voice and said he was a farmer living near Tavistock with his mother and that he had 200 sovereigns and 27 bundles of notes he wished to deposit in private

Mr Care told Mrs Bunting of his plan, and she asked if it was not wrong. He said: "No, we are going to be a Robin Hood".

At the bank, counsel continued, Mr Care was wearing old and rustic clothing. He had a false moustache, a piece of sticking plaster on his nose and had a case containing a realistic mock-up of a bomb.

In the manager's office he said: "I have an explosive device here and I'm going to blow you and the bank sky high.

Mr David Owen Thomas, QC, for the defence, said that while a curate at Ashburton Mr Care, who came from a humble background, made friends with people who had expensive tastes. He started to become a flamboyant figure in a wholly fantastic and fantasy-type world.

Dr David Sime, a consultant psychiatrist, said Mr Care was suffering from a psychopathic disorder that warranted his reception as a hospital inpatient.

Sentencing Mr Care to a total of seven years, Mr Justice Lawson said he did not consider a hospital order without restriction in time was the most suitable method of disposing of the case. He added: "You are perfectly capable of behaving in a proper Christian manner if you want to."

Church penalty: Legal authorities in the Church of England said last night that an incumbent who is sent to prison is automatically deprived of his living three weeks after sentence, either by his bishop or by the Archbishop of Canterbury

Mr Care: "Flamboyant figure in a fantasy world."

Strike action rejected by train drivers

By Christopher Thomas

Train drivers' leaders last night rejected demands for industrial action over service cuts and joined the National Union of Railwaymen in a call for an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister.

The executive of the Association of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef), the drivers' union, made its decision against a background of increasing unrest, particularly in the traditionally militant Southern Region, where there is a strong possibility of unofficial action.

A proposal that Aslef should tell the other two rail unions that it was prepared to use industrial action to stop railways running down was defeated by seven votes to two. Southern Region said last night that proposals for train service cuts were still being discussed with union representatives.

Cuts on Southern Region are due to take effect on April 20, and on March 1 in other regions. Mr Buckton, general secretary of Aslef, said last night that he had not been informed of any intentions to take unofficial action.

He added: "I can only appeal to our members everywhere to remain 100 per cent behind the executive committee, which is endeavouring to seek a solution to this serious problem in the industry. Unofficial strikes can only play into the hands of the people who wish to close the railways."

Bad cash record of Lighting disclosed

By Henry Stanc
Defence Corresnder

Figures rele by the Ministry of Inceindicate that the Light spersonic fighter, one of mos successful RAF aircrainceahe war, has a crash rel comparable to that of t Genan air force's Starfigh.

The RAF ies hat the comparison is d, beause the average Light is spent many more hs in the air than the aver German Starfighter.

The figurerecently disclosed in the nmoc by Mr Brynmor JohParliamentary Under-Secreta of Sate for Defence for tRAF showed that 66 Lightns hadbeen in accidents sir the aircraft began enterinservicein 1959. Of those 56 been estroyed and 10 "serio damged".

The RAF ght about 250 of the Mach-t inteceptors, which meansit as many as 23 per cent e beei lost in accidents. This at least no worse than Germn Starfighter recorthe German air force boughbout 900, and, although therman defence ministry is aboit giving figures, it isterall thought to have lost n than 180. The last publishegure was 178.

The Light figures are particularly becuse of a bad patch in late 960s and, particularly, easy 1970s. Eight were lin 1970, for instance, and many as 11 in 1971, the woyear o far.

That was tly due to the number of dents in which engines cautfire. It led to improvemenbeing made to the hydraulic piping and to the fire-detection system.

The RAF, anxious to defend an aircraft that has always been popular with pilots, points to the higher work load imposed on the Lightning, far higher than that borne by the Starfighter.

Moreover the British aircraft has always had a good safety record in respect of its pilot. The 66 crashes have resulted in the loss of 13 pilots.

Again, no figures are officially published giving the loss of Starfighter air crew, but the total is thought to be about 80, and in the 1960s the aircraft earned itself the doleful title of the "widow-maker", because of the high number of fatalities. The German air force now claims to have overcome that by fitting a Martin-Baker ejection seat like that in the Lightning.

The fairly short-range Lightning, which has been in difficulties on long-range interception of Russian aircraft off the north coast of Scotland, is in the twilight of its long career. It is gradually being replaced by longer-range Phantoms, released from their ground-attack role in Germany by the introduction of the new Jaguar low-level strike aircraft.

About 70 are still with the RAF, divided among five front-line squadrons and a small operational conversion unit. There is also a suggestion that some may be retained to fly alongside the Phantoms because of the small number of aircraft left for the defence of Britain's air space. A new interceptor is being procured for the RAF in the next decade.

Tory agents annoyed by 'Thatcher henchmen'

By Michael Hatfield
Political Staff

The rumblings inside the Conservative Party over recent personnel changes—and the prospect of radical structural changes in the organization—have erupted into a squabble with Tory agents breaking ranks.

They accuse some of the "henchmen" of Mrs Thatcher, leader of the party, of being disastrously insensitive and devious." American-style big business dismissals, they state, were compensated by fat salaries and expensive perks, but they were totally out of place in the agents' profession.

The comments are contained in the privately circulated Conservative Agents' Journal, and are primarily directed at the dismissal of Sir Richard Webster, the director of organization.

Sir Richard, who had a long career as a professional organizer for the party, was seen as a great protector of the agents, many of whom resent some recent appointments to Conservative Central Office because they lack experience "in the field".

They believe that if that process continues it might lead to a breakdown in the traditional relationship between the party and its professional workers. It might also mean a change in career structure, with agents meeting competition from "newcomers".

The editorial in the journal, which circulates among 340 agents, says of Sir Richard's dismissal: "What in the name of heaven was the rush? Could the party not have negotiated a smooth hand-over, a fitting presentation, if change was desirable.

"Such treatment is not only a blow to the individual; it is an insult to the profession", it says. "We might accept ministerial dismissals if we had ministerial responsibility

The journal's editor, Jean Lucas, Conservative agent for Putney, argues that the agents' influence on Conservative Central Office is being whittled away by politicians from Westminster.

Expert's warning of fire risk in tower blocks

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

A warning of a fire risk in tower blocks was given yesterday by Mr N. C. Strother Smith, director of the Fire Protection Association. "I do not believe that high-rise building fires, which occurred in Brazil, cannot happen here", he said.

He was referring to two fires in São Paulo, in which a total of 195 people died. Both were in office blocks, one of 31 storeys, the other 25. The cause in one was an electrical fault.

Mr Strother Smith said at a national fire protection conference in London, attended by representatives of industry, insurance and the fire service: ourselves to be led by a very rapidly advancing science and technology into situations for which we have not developed the necessary control. I am sure that the Flixborough-type situation, although monumental in its effects, is not alone.

"Cost economies must also be blamed for the scale of the disasters we have seen. I believe that all over the world risks are being taken without a proper understanding of what they are.

"There can really be no doubt that in the planning and design stages of a very large number of projects little or no thought is given to the possibility that a fire may break out", he said.

Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, opening the conference, said that the number of fires to which fire brigades were called had nearly doubled over 10 years. The toll of deaths and injuries from fires in the home increased almost every year. Yet great effort and expense had gone into improving safety in hotels, places of entertainment, factories, shops and offices.

Manx youth withdraws birch action

The Manx youth whose birching nearly four years ago led to an investigation of the Isle of Man's birching laws by the European Commission of Human Rights has decided to take no further part in the controversy. However, it is uncertain whether that will affect the final issue.

The youth was 15 when he was given three strokes of the birch in April, 1972, for his part in an assault on a school prefect. His case was taken up by the National Council for Civil Liberties, and the European Commission in Strasbourg decided that birching was in contravention of the convention of human rights. The council requested the British Government to persuade the Manx Government to outlaw birching, a move strongly resisted by Tynwald.

Prison for 'Victorian' mothr

A "Victorian" mother who led a revenge attack on the man she believed had raped her daughter was sentenced at Leeds Crown Court yesterday to nine months' imprisonment. There was an outcry in court from relatives as the sentence was announced, and later the mother's solicitor said there would be an appeal.

Mr Justice Jupp told her: "You are a refreshing kind of mother to see. I wish other mothers were like it. But they must not go to the lengths you went to."

Mr David Wagstaff, for the prosecution, said that Mrs Margaret Wall, aged 49, thought her brother, Mr Michael Foley, aged 35, had raped her daughter, Sheila, aged 18.

Armed with a breadknife, [illegible] with her sons, Robert, aged 24, and John, aged 27. But Mr Foley called at her home, was attacked and suffered a broken arm and cuts.

Mr Gerald Coles, for the defence, said Mrs Wall was a woman of remarkable character. "She has a very firm sense of what is right and what is proper. In this so-called permissive age this is perhaps the last bastion of this attitude, an almost Victorian obsession with the honour of the family and the honour of her daughter."

Det Inspector Eric Thompson said of Mr Foley: "I would think he probably got what he deserved."

The girl had alleged that Mr Foley gave her a lot to drink in two night clubs, then took her to a caravan and raped her. There was no corroboration of her story and at Harrogate Magistrates' Court the charge had been withdrawn.

Mrs Wall, the mother of nine children, with an invalid husband, of Back Glossop Street, [illegible] employed, of Raglan Terrace, Bradford, and John Wall, salesman, of Aston View, Leeds, pleaded guilty to wounding Mr Foley, a er, of Gipton Square, Leewith intent to do grievous bo harm.

Mrs Walhd Robert Wall were each itenced to nine months, anJohn Wall was given a sionth suspended sentence.

Mrs Wabroke down and shouted, "(God. Oh, please God, help d"

The judgid Mrs Wall had been despeely anxious when the girl sed out all night. But she hacold ne witness: "People g awa with rape. He won't gawaywith it."

The jge commented: "That mabe he fault of jurors, or judgs, or the law itself, whics in he control of Parliamenmat you know you can't takeae lw into your own hands

[illegible] be made ta juge in London for the relse o bail of Mrs Wall and Robert Wall pending an appeal

Talks over land-tax measure

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The Development Land Tax Bill, expected to be published today, will be much more complicated than the Government originally indicated. Until recently ministers were suggesting that it would be short and straightforward compared with the complexities of the Community Land Act, which it is intended to complement.

The fact that the target date for enactment has been put back from April 1 to August 1 is attributed to the need for consultation with accountancy and tax experts, local authorities and landowners' associations.

One important concession has been made in raising the exemption limit from £5,000 to £10,000 and the reduction in the proposed tax on the next £150,000 of realized development value from 80 per cent to 66⅔ per cent.

In effect the delay means that the Community Land Act will not begin to operate until later this year, since few councils will be prepared to pay the full market value for land that they can expect to obtain net of tax in a few months' time. But even then the reduction in the tax means that they will be paying more than they would otherwise have hoped.

Attitudes to work

Extensive extracts from a hitherto unpublished official study of attitudes to work and further education among school-leavers appear in The Times Higher Education Supplement today. There is also a report on York University and a financial analysis showing why university staff/student ratios must worsen.

Former county officer faces 18 charges

Warwickshire police said yesterday that Mr Ronald Norris, aged 58, the former county planning officer, had been served with summonses relating to 18 charges alleging corruption and forgery.

Mr Richard Pritchard, aged 67, a landowner and former rural district councillor, who retired two years ago as deputy chairman of the justices at Stratford-on-Avon, faced five charges alleging similar offences, it was said.

Mr Norris, who retired two years ago, lives at Clifford Chambers, near Stratford-on-Avon, and Mr Pritchard at Chapel Street, Wellesbourne, near Stratford. The summonses are returnable at Warwick Magistrates' Court on March 31 and relate to a development plan for the village of Wellesbourne.

A third man, Mr Dennis Rose, aged 40, a business consultant, of Oaktree Close, Leamington, will appear on the same day on 13 charges alleging corruption.

New treasurer

Mr Walter Clegg, MP for North Fylde and a former Conservative whip, was elected honorary treasurer of the Conservative backbenchers' 1922 Committee last night in succession to Mr Godman Irvine.

Bill seeks to set up English development agences

By Our Political Staff

A private member's Bill to establish English development agencies, with an initial funding at £160m, was published yesterday. It will come up for second reading in the House of Commons next Friday.

The English Development Agencies Bill is being presented by Mr John Horam, Labour MP for Gateshead, West, who came fifth in the ballot for private member's Bills. His measure seeks to establish development agencies in the English regions along the same lines as the Scottish and Welsh development agencies.

Agencies would be set up for the North of England, Merseyside and the South-West of England. he Secretary of State for lusty would have power to ate agencies for other areas

Mr Hor id yesterday that the Bhadbeen modelled on those sing up the Scottish and Wsh agencies, and the propos finice had been worked ou a similar basis.

The prcte North of England Ielopment Agency would havd00n, the Merseyside Develoen Agency £50m and the Sh-west of England Developme Agency, £10m. The amou could be raised by a maxim o a half.

The cosf etting up the agencies ilker to prove a big stumig lock for the Bill. If it bprved a separate money riution would be needed.

Sentences not a day too long, court says

A former soldier, jailed for seven and a half years last July by Mr Justice Melford Stevenson for rape and theft, was told in the Court of Appeal yesterday that the sentences were not a day too long. Darryl Kelvin Mathias, aged 25, had his appeal rejected.

Mr Mathias, a casual labourer, whose address was given as the Hen and Chicks public house, High Street, Luton, near Chatham, Kent, also lost his appeal against a consecutive 12-month jail sentence imposed on him by a different judge for assault and causing damage.

Lord Justice Bridge, sitting with Lord Justice Shaw and Mr Justice Cantley, told Mr Mathias: "Society deserves, and is going to get, a very long respite from your activities."

Mr Justice Melford Stevenson jailed Mr Mathias for six years for raping a Chatham woman after forcing his way into her home while her husband was away, and gave him an extra year for stealing £6 from the woman's purse. He also enforced a previously suspended six-month sentence.

RNR command changes

The Royal Naval Reserve is to become the direct responsibility of Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, under a reorganization of the 7,000-member force announced yesterday by the Ministry of Defence.

The ministry said the move was intended to achieve a closer relationship between the regulars and the reserves enabling the part-timers to keep up with changes in maritime technology and tactics.

Lettr on prices missing from file, MP says

By Our Pecal Staff

Mrs Sa Oppenheim, Conservative pkesman on consumer afs, aid yesterday that a pri letter, the circulation of wh to lewspapers has angered bur MPs, was missing from file at the House of Comm

In the er, which was said to have 1 written by Mrs Oppenhei M A. J. Tennant, a director Wamey Mann, she was repo. to have said: "I would h thought that it would betirdy understandable if ywere, in fact, to advise y members not to participain the voluntary price resit cheme.

"I th at consumers should ne nisled to think that anyt meaningful in the way of p estraint can be achieved by such cosmetic exercises."

Details from the letter, which she wrote in January, were published yesterday and she said that after the disclosures in the press "a search was made of my files as soon as my office opened this morning. The letter referred to was missing".

Mrs Oppenheim said she had told the Serjeant at Arms and the chief inspector of police at Westminster, although she added: "I am not in a position to know whether the letter which is missing from my files is the one which has been circulated to the press."

She had approached the Chief Executive of Wamey Mann, Mr Shepherd, who had made inquiries and told her that no letter had been circulated to the press from his organization or anyone connected with it.

The letter concerned involvement in the new price scheme, but Mrs Oppenheim said she was not prepared to accept criticism from any Labour minister with regard to any attack she might have made on a scheme "which is likely to do little or nothing as far as prices are concerned".

Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said last night: "In trying to wreck the Price Check programme Mrs Oppenheim endangered the counter-inflation package with no regard to the national interest."

He called on Mrs Thacher to say if "this sabotage attempt" had been part of a concentrated campaign.

Disissed BBC men talk of 'sturbing facts'

The tvprogramme assistants disd by the BBC from itsoruguese service accused icporation yesterday of a : political objectivity anclept management.

Senhorntonio Cartaxo and Senhor g Ribeiro, who were emie by the corporation for h seven years respectively t their dismissal last Octo, said there were very dist facts connected both with dismissals and with the ral role of the BBC's trasions to Portugal which ou be made public.

Their t the Association of Broaing and Allied Staffs, wrepresented them in their icessful appeal to Sir ChaCurran, Director-General e BBC, said officials wole seeing the two men nerk. It would then consider ther a reference should lade to the industrial trib

At a press conference arranged by the Media Support Group the two men accused the BBC of bias and openly supporting the Socialist Party in Portugal. They suggested that certain points should be debated by the media to throw light on the BBC's role during the political upheaval in Portugal and prevent further clashes among the staff should a similar situation arise.

Of the seven "lapses from objectivity" attributed to them, they said, only one was an unauthorized interpolation. They also said that memoranda referring to them as "troublemakers" which had been circulated had somehow disappeared.

The BBC, they said, had refused to accept their exolanations and had rejected evidence that would acquit them of deliberate involvement in the incidents.

Mental hospital cleared over woman's suicide

From Our Correspondent
Northampton

Staff at St Crispin Hospital, Duston, Northamptonshire, were cleared by a coroner yesterday of allegations that they turned Mrs Winifred Howe, aged 63, into "an uncontrollable demon".

The allegations were made by her husband, William, of Wilbaston, after his wife had thrown herself into a river. Mrs Howe had been a patient at the mental hospital suffering from depression. Her husband said she had received drugs and electro convulsive treatment.

The coroner said: "There no evidence that the hospi authorities were in any way blame for her death", recorded a verdict of suic

Williams & Glyn's believes technology should improve personal service, not replace it.

Williams & Glyn's believes modern technology can be a good servant but a bad master. As far as we're concerned it should be made to provide the kind of traditional banking service people used to take for granted. In fact it sometimes enables us to give services that would otherwise be impossible. Automatic cash dispensers allow us to give a 24-hour cash service. And we can even give you an 'instant statement' at *any* of our branches—a record of your latest transactions and current balance.

But more importantly, modern technology gives us the time to deal more fully with your financial problems. In fact we devote more management time and effort to individual accounts than most other banks.

We don't claim any of these points makes us unique. But add them together and they amount to a big difference—a bank that looks at banking from the customer's point of view.

If you would like a bank that has more time for its personal customers, call in at your local Williams & Glyn's branch and ask to see the manager.

Some of the other small differences that add up to a big difference

1 Greater accuracy
Before we send your computer statement, it is checked by hand at your branch against your old cheques.

2 A system that cuts queueing
If a cashier is away, other staff can come forward to serve from the till at busy times.

3 High Yield Savings Scheme
The Nest Egg Plan can yield up to 14.5% p.a. and includes lifeassurance.

4 Old cheques returned
Your old cheques are returned automatically with your statement to make it easier to keep track of your spending.

5 "Masterguard" Single Premium Comprehensive Insurance
A master policy that insures you and your family, your home and its contents.

WILLIAMS & GLYN'S BANK LTD
The most flexible of the big five banks

WOULD BRITISH INDUSTRY BE HEALTHIER TAKING MONEY OUT OF THE BANK, NOT PUTTING IT IN?

e TUC and CBI seem to think so.

beatedly they've issued warnings about under-investment.

eir fear is that when the recovery of world trade that we've been hopin and praying for arrives, Britain will be in no shape to take advantage of it.

The Bank of England's of the same opinion. And in its circular last year it asked banks to:

"....direct advances towards the expansion of exports, the saving of imports and industrial investments."

This doesn't mean that we at Barclays are going to hand out money to everyone who comes knocking on our door.

The country won't get anywhere by throwing good money after bad.

We must pin our hopes and hard cas on successful but under-invested firms.

Wmust put them in a position where they can win hore markets; sell against other countries on world mrkets; compete with the French, Germans and Americas for overseas contracts.

Understandably, before parting with large sums of money, we'll neec to ak a few questions of even the most successful firms.

Wel want to talk about your plans for the future, as well as getting a fee of e way you do business.

If yu've been making full use of our banking services, we'll already have a god idea of your cash and tax position. All of which will pinpoin thkind of backing you need.

Fo nstance, a Medium Term Loan for capital investment can be drawn in lifferent ways.

Wreas one company would prefer it as a lump sum, another puld rather draw it in instalments.

(By he way, despite the name, a Medium Term Loan can lst along as 10 years.)

Forthird company, the bank's leasing facilities may be more attitive than a loan. Working capital is released and there are often tax advantages.

With all these schemes the terms of repayment can be constant, or vary season to season, year to year to suit your cash flow.

Sometimes payments can be suspended until you are benefiting fully from the investment. And in certain cases, you can repay the entire loan at the end of the period.

If you sell abroad, we can be of still more help.

To encourage foreign customers to place ord with you, we will always consider providing them with suitae finance through Barclays Bank International. It's a usef way to expand established markets quite apart from openg up new ones.

Hav done that, we can often protect you against exchaigete fluctuations by selling foreign currency for you in advnc

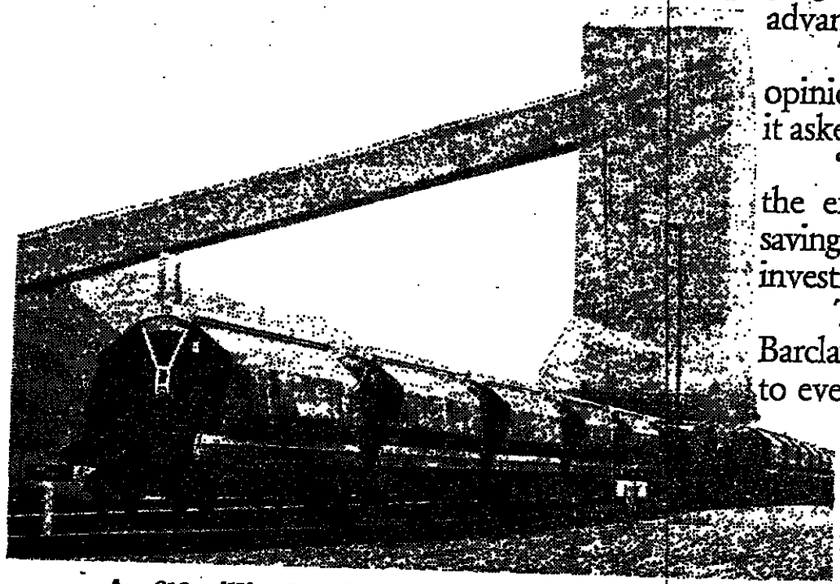
Ve ovide this protection for companies that buy abroac asell. Whether they import finished goods or raw materi ls.

Eit matter what backing or help is needed, the first step is lws the same.

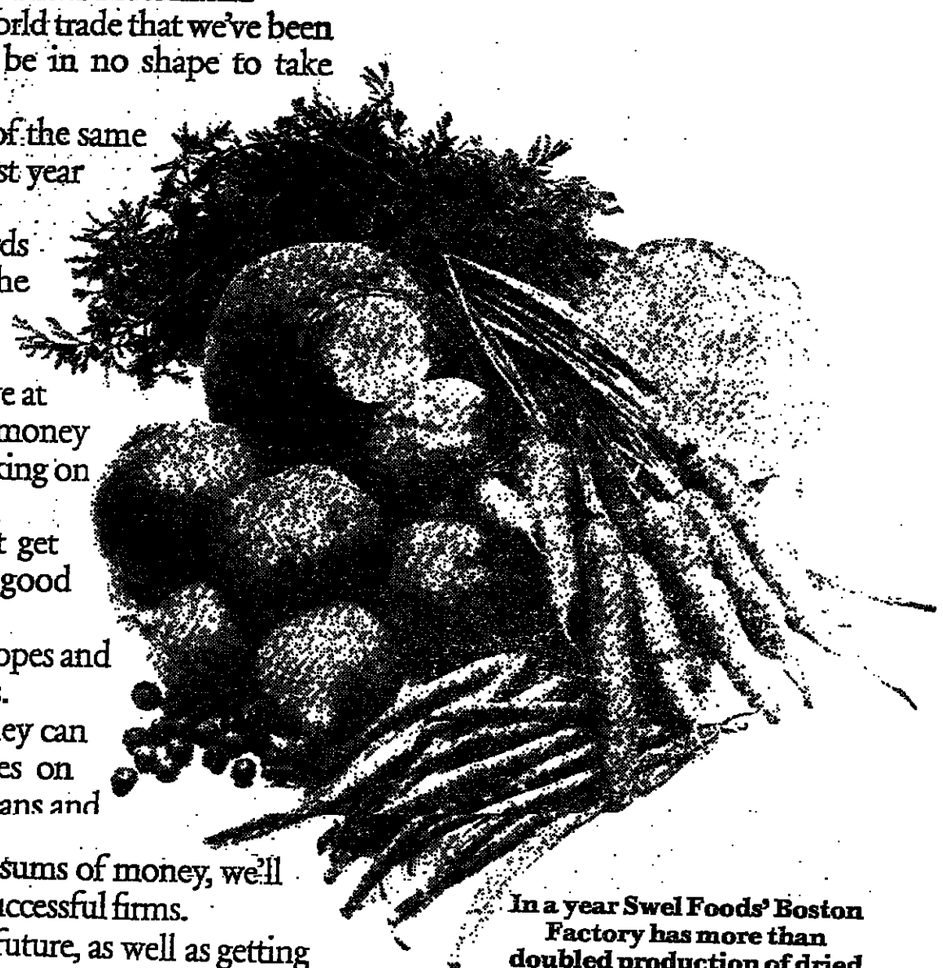
Arge a meeting with your local Barclays Bank Manager.

He lows there's truth in the old adage; it takes money to mak pney.

BARCLAYS

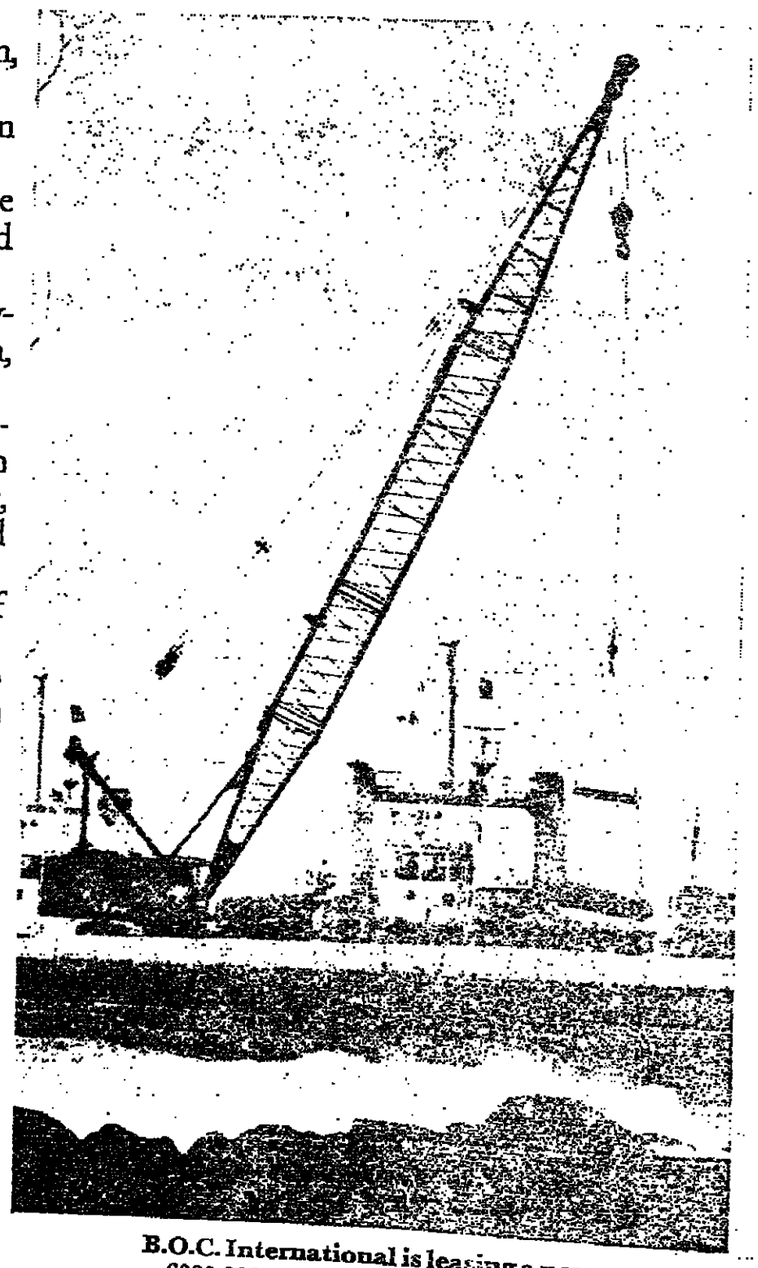


An £18 million Medium Term Loan to Cleveland Potash will help turn Britain into a net exporter of potash.



In a year Swel Foods' Boston Factory has more than doubled production of dried vegetables by taking a £150,000 Medium Term Loan over 5 years for a new drier.

Massey Ferguson Perkins Ltd, has gained a £170 million contract. The Polish buyer was helped by Barclays with sterling and currency syndicated loans, repayable over several years.



B.O.C. International is leasing a new £220,000 crane for 7 years through Barclays Bank. Oil pipe and heavy goods handling efficiency has increased by 30%.

هكذا من الاصل

Ministry intervenes in dispute over oil storage in Shetland

By Charles Douglas-Home

The Department of Energy yesterday called a meeting with representatives of the Shetland Islands Council in an attempt to resolve a deadlock over the council's demand that the oil companies should build underground caverns, rather than surface tanks, in which to store millions of barrels of oil which will be piped into Shetland from the Brent field.

Mr John Smith, the Minister of State, discussed the problem with Mr Ian Clark, Chief Executive of the Shetland council, and Mr A. I. Tulloch, the convenor.

The point has been reached at which the disagreement over the Sullom Voe site in Shetland, chosen as the terminal for two oil pipelines, may cause damaging delay to the programme to make Britain self-sufficient in oil by 1980. Sullom Voe, when operational, will receive more than half of all the oil from Britain's North Sea fields.

Relations between the Shetland council and the oil companies, led by Shell, Esso and BP, seem to have sunk to a low point of mutual distrust and recrimination. The council is adamant that the oil companies will not receive planning permission for any development—either at the terminal or elsewhere in the islands—which the council believes is not in the best long-term interests of the Shetlanders. And it has the necessary powers to maintain that position.

The oil companies' first objection to the proposal to build underground caverns was that it would cost an extra £40m. The two sides have now reduced that to an agreed figure of £20m, with the council saying that, on certain coculations, the extra cost might be as little as £10m in a project costing about £350m for the first phase only.

The oil companies also say that, apart from the fact that the cavern scheme would set back their programme by two years, they have doubts about its technical feasibility.

Shetland council believes that BP has invested too much in the area not to accede, ultimately, to the council's demands, and maintains that the oil companies have not been entirely straightforward with the council in previous dealings.

Threats by the oil companies that they may be forced to demand a public inquiry are met with determination by the council not to yield the point, even under those conditions.

In fact, although the Department of Energy intervened yesterday, it has no power to take over from the Shetland council, which is equipped with formidable powers of control obtained through a private Act of Parliament in 1973.

An official of the Department of Energy said yesterday that the minister had discussed general problems of oil development with the two Shetlanders, but that no specific point about Sullom Voe was put to them. "The Shetlanders must be free to organize their own planning facilities", he said.

MP fined for altering MoT test certificate

Mr Arthur Lewis, aged 59, Labour MP for Newham, Northwest, was convicted at Ealing Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday of altering an MoT test certificate. He was fined £75. He denied altering the certificate with intent to deceive. He said he was entering immediate notice of appeal.

The court was told that dates on a certificate Mr Lewis sent to the GLC licensing department at Ealing with an application for a new road tax disc in April last year had been altered.

Mr Lewis said he did not alter them and he told the magistrates of a visit to his home by two kerbside car cleaners in late 1974. He said one of the men had taken the car, a Ford Zodiac, from his home in Doveridge Gardens, Palmrs Green, London, for testing. The likeliest explanation was that that man altered the dates and pocketed the test fee.

Mr Lewis told Mr Denis McArdle, for the defence, that he had not checked the certificate when the man brought it back, or before it was submitted to the GLC.

Asked about his campaign against road-tax dodgers, Mr Lewis said: "A friend of mine, a high-ranking Scotland Yard officer, told me I am considered as a bit of a nuisance to the establishment because of my persistence in asking questions about this aspect of road transport. I am particularly concerned about excise duty and failure to get cars tested for roadworthiness."

The jury checking coins in the Trial of the Pyx at Goldsmiths' Hall.

Testing time for the Royal Mint

By Philip Howard

The Trial of the Pyx, the independent examination of the coinage that has been carried out in the same way for more than seven centuries and probably since before the Norman Conquest, was performed again yesterday.

Although this most hieratic liturgy at the temple of Mammon is exceedingly traditional, there were some significant innovations in this year's audit of the coins struck by the Royal Mint in the previous year. Nearly three times as many coins as usual were tested, partly because of inflation, and partly because decimal coinage for New Zealand was tested at the same time.

The ceremony was accordingly held for the first time in the Livery hall of the Goldsmiths' Company, an appropriately splendid cathedral of money in the English baroque style, with giant yellow marble pilasters, richly coffered ceiling, and a gilded effigy of St Dunstan standing guard on the stairs. It was the last trial under the old order. New legislation means that next year only one specimen coin in 5,000 instead of one coin in 3,000 will have to be set apart by the mint in the pyx or sealed chest for trial.

The jury consisted of 36 "discreet and lawful" citizens of London, and, more relevantly, members of the Goldsmiths' Company and wardens of its mysteries. They had to count, weigh, measure the size and configuration, and assay the purity of the metal of nearly 100,000 United Kingdom coins, and then, reconstituted as a separate jury, nearly 16,000 New Zealand coins.

The United Kingdom coinage was of 2,000 gold sovereigns, almost exactly the value of the gold coinage submitted at the Trial of the Pyx a century ago; 31 Maundy silver coins; and a vast quantity of cupro-nickel coinage. The verdicts will determine the justness of coinage worth £45m and five million New Zealand dollars.

The ceremonies were suitably solemn and elaborate for a matter as serious as money. They were presided over in the role of high priest and hierophant by the Queen's Remembrancer, Master L. H. Jacob, wearing and occasionally removing a black three-cornered cap on his wig.

The jury took the oath to make the assay "well and truly after their knowledge and discretion", and fell to counting with a mighty clinking. They will give their verdicts on May 21.

It will be a sensation and a scandal if they find anything wrong. Though, of course and alas, they are testing only the composition of the coinage, and are giving absolutely no guarantee that its value will not have decreased considerably by May.

Home treatment 'good for most minor illness'

By John Roper
Medical Reporter

Self-treatment of minor illness with medicines available without a doctor's prescription is effective against three quarters of apparent symptoms, a study at the department of community medicine at Guy's Hospital, London, has found.

The results were given in a paper to the annual meeting in London yesterday of the Association Européene des Spécialités Pharmaceutiques Grand Public, the association of makers and distributors of proprietary medicines.

Dr J. A. D. Anderson, head of the Guy's department, said analysis of results from more than 600 patients was not complete but a panel of three doctors considered that only 5 per cent of symptoms were treated in a possibly harmful way. He concluded that most people treated their minor ill health themselves efficiently and responsibly; but that they should understand that the medicines alleviated symptoms only, did not cure, and should be used only if the illness soon cleared up.

The study found that people who had not consulted their doctor for a year saw themselves as being healthier and more self-reliant about their health than those who sought medical advice.

Dr Anderson suggested that family doctors had a responsibility to mould patients' attitudes more towards self-treatment of minor illness. It was reasonable to say that for many of today's ailments palliation was the best that could be achieved with current knowledge, and if the right self-medication could be selected little more was required of doctors than reassurance that there was no more effective remedy.

Sick people did not appreciate that proprietary medicine relieved symptoms while nature did the curing. Dissatisfaction with the health services might lead people to undertake self-treatment when they should not do so. Doctors needed to agree with makers of "over-the-counter" medicines on therapeutic claims and the duration of safe self-treatment.

About 250 delegates from 18 countries attended the conference. The British group, the Proprietary Association of Great Britian, is awaiting the Government's decision on the general sale list for home medicines, expected to be published within two weeks, laying down which medicines may be bought without prescription.

District council rates to rise by average of 15%

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Ratepayers in the non-metropolitan areas of England and Wales can expect average rate increases of about 15 per cent from April, according to the latest figures compiled by the Association of District Councils.

The forecast is based on returns from just over a third of the 333 non-metropolitan districts, with estimates of the county and water rates.

So far, 119 district councils have announced their proposed rates, of which 40 show an increase, 53 a reduction, and 26 no change. The reductions range from 0.1 per cent to 28.7 per cent, the figure at Nottingham. Increases range from 0.4 per cent to 31.7 per cent, Guildford disclosing the largest increase.

In the non-metropolitan areas the counties have the bigger costs through providing the expensive services such as education and social services. The result is that Nottingham ratepayers will still face an increase in their total rate bill, when the country precept and the water rate are added.

In Guildford the situation is worse. Surrey County Council found itself penalized by a loss in the Government's rate-support grant, and have had to increase its precept by about a fifth.

Synod backs attack on sale of redundant churches for use as Masonic halls

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The sale of redundant church buildings for use as Masonic halls was attacked in the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday by Dr Barbara Cawthorne, of Lichfield, a lay member. There was obviously considerable support for her views.

She said she had been consulted by a young man who had joined the Freemasons without knowing what was entailed. He came to her in some distress. In spite of his vow of secrecy, he showed her the requirements for the twenty-first degree of Masonry, which stated "that Christ was a prophet, one equal to a list of prophets whose names were given".

She continued: "This young man who believed in Christ as divine lord and saviour was expected to express obedience to his teaching. I know there are Masonic lodges specifically for the clergy, and perhaps modification in the teaching is made for them. Since the teaching of Freemasonry is thus clearly anti-Christian, I should ask, please, that no further redundant churches should be put to use as Masonic halls."

Dr Cawthorne's brief speech brought considerable applause from synod members. Sir Ronald Harris, first Church Estates Commissioner, said the concern about the sale of a London church building to Freemasonic uses would be noted, in view of the synod's support for Dr Cawthorne. It was an extremely difficult question, he added.

Opening a general debate on the Church Commissoners' last annual report, Sir Ronald said the reduction in national inflation was a relief to the church. But the church should not ignore the call for increased giving.

The commissioners had reluctantly decided that they would not provide funds for investment in residential property. They were proposing to sell selected parts of existing Church Commissioner estates. The long-term investment prospects for residential property remained uncertain, Sir Ronald said.

The debate concluded without any criticism of the Church Commissioners' investment policies in Southern Africa, or of their decision to support a motion at the annual meeting of Midland Bank calling for an end to loans to South Africa. (The commissioners' decision was criticized by the Bishop of Chester in a letter to *The Times* yesterday).

The General Synod followed the line taken by the bishops in the House of Lords debate two weeks ago that no new legislation on euthanasia was needed. The law was already adequate, the synod believed, although several speakers criticized present standards of care for the dying.

The Bishop of Truro, the Right Rev Graham Leonard, said the greater the power and influence of the state the more necessary it was to insist on the sanctity of life.

Professor Sir Norman Anderson, chairman of the House of Laity, declared: "What inspires the demands for meddlesome legislation is meddlesome medicine." He also criticized the unwise use of medical resources which caused distress to patients and relatives.

The synod accepted the Board for Social Responsibility's report on euthanasia and the care of the dying. The report called for special nursing skills to relieve suffering in cases of terminal illness, and deplored excessive surgical interventions by doctors attempting to prolong life.

Talks on disposal of nuclear waste at sea

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Negotiations have begun between the Government and the Nuclear Energy Agency on the best way to dispose of 1,000 tons of lo-level radioactive waste at sea from storage sites in the United Kingdom.

Most of the waste consists of materials such as nuclear fuel canisters contaminated after use in power stations.

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said in a Commons reply yesterday that that was the most suitable way of disposing of solid low-activity radioactive waste.

The dumping area used by members of the Nuclear Energy Agency is 600 miles out in the north-east Atlantic at a depth of 3,000 to 4,000 metres. Britain has dumped 6,500 tons since under international arrangements agreed 27 years ago.

Plea by Whittle ruse woman fails

A woman jailed for four years for her part in a £50,000 ransom demand on the parents of Shelley Whittle, the murdered actress, lost her appeal against sentence yesterday.

The plot by Mrs Dorothy Ann Davies-James, aged 30, and her lover, Brian Davis, was monstrous, Lord Justice Bridge said in the Court of Appeal. Mrs Davies-James, of Huxley Road, Gloucester, was jailed at Gloucester Crown Court on Oct 24 for conspiracy to demand cash with menaces. Her lover was never traced.

Ampthill hearing to decide on blood-test comparison

By Marcel Berlins

The Ampthill barony hearing has been adjourned to enable the nine members of the House of Lords Committee of Privileges to decide whether to order the results of blood samples in possession of the two claimants to be compared.

Counsel for Mr John Russell, one of the claimants, said on Tuesday that he had made available the results of a blood test on the late third Lord Ampthill to the other claimant, Mr Geoffrey Russell, and said that his client would withdraw his claim if a comparison showed that Mr Geoffrey Russell could have been Lord Ampthill's son.

It turned out that, through a slip, the results had not in fact been made available. Mr Geoffrey Russell and his advisers were given reports yesterday on the tests on the late Lord Ampthill as well as on other members of the Russell family.

Sir John Foster, QC, for Mr Geoffrey Russell, reiterated his argument that the samples taken from Lord Ampthill were suspect. The legal safeguards in taking blood tests had not been observed. He was not prepared to compare the samples of Mr Geoffrey Russell and Christabel Lady Ampthill's blood with what he regarded as unreliable samples.

Sir John's main point was that there could be no question of comparing the blood samples until it had been shown on behalf of Mr John Russell that a declaration of legitimacy in favour of Mr Geoffrey Russell in 1926 had been obtained by fraud. That had not been done.

Lord Beswick, a non-lawyer member of the committee, suggested that if it could be shown by comparing blood samples that Mr Geoffrey Russell could not be the son of the third Lord Ampthill, that meant that Christabel, Geoffrey's mother, must have concealed the fact of her adultery with another man from the court that granted the declaration of legitimacy. That might amount to fraud.

Sir John said fraud could not be proved on a hypothesis. It had to be particularized. The other side could not go on a fishing expedition.

The committee has two options before it. It could decide that Mr John Russell's side had not provided any evidence of fraud on Christabel's part and that therefore the declaration of legitimacy was binding. In that case Mr Geoffry Russell's claim will be successful and the committee will advise the full House of Lords accordingly.

If, however, the committee decided that the blood samples on both sides ought to be compared before they could come to a decision, it will be necessary to hold another hearing, with evidence being given about the circumstances in which the samples were taken, and on the results themselves. That hearing could not take place for several weeks.

The committee gave no indication on how long it expects to take to reach a decision.

Spinoza's ethics preferred to Aristotle's

By Staff Reporter

Mr Stuart Hampshire, Warden of Wadham College, Oxford, last night completed his Thank-offering to Britain Fund Lecture at the British Academy.

The subject of the three lectures has been a comparison of two radically different conceptions of morality. The first, originally stated by Aristotle, is that our ordinary moral intuitions have to be accepted as the firm basis of moral philosophy. According to that conception, philosophy can look for unsuspected coherence in our intuitions; but it will not fundamentally change our moral outlook, which rests on common sense.

The other conception of morality, persuasively stated by Spinoza, suggests that our ordinary moral intuitions are founded on superstitions, and particularly on a false theory of the nature of thought and of free will. According to that, moral philosophy ought to lead to a moral conversion and to a new outlook on the world, an outlook that can be called naturalism.

In his final lecture last night Mr Hampshire came down on the side of the second conception, and speculated on its future which, he argued, would depend on the future of psychology.

Mr Hampshire expounded Spinoza's theory of the relation between mind and body; and he predicted that psychology, particularly clinical psychology, would develop along the path suggested by Spinoza. He argued that the order of events in a man's mind and the order of events in his body are aspects of the same order of events in that person.

As physical remedies for mental aberrations are increasingly developed, we shall at the same time realize that a better understanding of an unconscious sort is equally a path to improvement. Neither way excludes, or even is a complement to, the other. On the contrary, both are necessary.

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PARLIAMENT, February 26, 1976

Decisions fair to both British Airways and British Caledonian

House of Commons

Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab), moving approval of the Government statement on civil aviation policy guidance, said he shared the view of many people in the airline industry that there had been too many changes in aviation policy in recent years.

Success in the aviation industry demanded massive investment, long-term planning and sustained attention to the needs of the market over a long period. Frequent change was to be avoided. There were, however, fundamental reasons why he considered the review of policy which had been carried out to be essential.

The increase in oil prices at the end of 1973 had radically changed the airline industry's prospects. Fares, far from declining in real terms, had to go up sharply.

The civil aviation's latest figures showed that in terms of passenger miles, international traffic carried by airlines had gone up 4 per cent last year compared with 1974, but the British airlines would need a good year in 1976 to get back to the traffic levels achieved in 1973.

Our airlines (he said) have to face a more difficult and uncertain prospect at least for some years to come.

He had therefore been right to ask what changes were needed to reinforce competitive strength in the Bill.

There was also widespread concern that double designation of British airlines, especially on long haul, was the wrong basis for aviation policy.

British Caledonian's unsuccessful attempt to establish themselves on the route to Los Angeles had shown how difficult it was to establish and retain a major share of long haul routes in competition with other countries' main flag carriers and British Airways.

In taking his decisions after the *review of aviation policy was completed* last summer, he had four objectives in mind. He wanted to strengthen the British airline industry and ensure that its resources and energies were in future turned not against itself in unnecessary and damaging competition, but against foreign carriers who constituted the main challenge on international routes.

The second objective was to safeguard employment and the third to produce an outcome fair, not only to the private sector but also to British Airways which, as the national carrier, played much the largest part in the total civil aviation effort, and which had been subjected to such arbitrary and discriminatory treatment four years ago.

His final aim was to achieve a settlement sufficiently strong in aviation terms and in general acceptability that it would last and give the industry the stability it undoubtedly needed.

Jobs at risk

He had considered nationalizing British Caledonian and merging it with British Airways, but that would have been followed by rationalization which would have cost many Caledonian workers their jobs, and have been a setback to the policy of building up traffic at Gatwick. He also bore in mind the views of the staff, of Caledonian customers and members of the travelling public who had found them a well-run and effective airline.

He had also considered reversing route transfers imposed by the Conservatives in 1972, returning west African and other routes to British Airways. That would have been feasible until late 1973. Caledonian, until then, could have sustained itself on charter and other dual designation routes, but to *have done so in the conditions of* 1975 and 1976 would have threatened the existence of Caledonian and put thousands of jobs at Gatwick and elsewhere in jeopardy.

He had concluded that the best solution was to end double designation and instead to establish separate long-haul spheres of interests for British Airways and British Caledonian. Reactions in the industry suggested he had a measure of success in meeting his objectives.

There was a widespread feeling in the industry, he believed, that the new policy guidance would provide a sensible and reasonable framework within which all the airlines could work and develop. There had been general acceptance that his decision on the spheres of interest had been fair and likely to benefit both airlines.

British Airways could make long-term plans to develop the routes to North America and Singapore without anxiety that at some point Caledonian would want to introduce services which would cut their share of the market; and British Caledonian would have substantial scope for future expansion. In addition to the present network they would have the route to Venezuela, Colombia and Peru which could in due course be extended to Ecuador. They would also be the British line designated to operate to Atlanta and Houston when that route became available for international services.

As for Skytrain, in the wake of BCAL hurriedly enforced withdrawal from the London-New York route as recently as September, 1974, and, having arrived subsequently at the strong conclusion that double designation on long-haul routes was not in the interests of British aviation, it would need arguments of quite exceptional strength to persuade the Government to sanction another airline on that route.

The issue was not that of starting a Skytrain now but whether the Government should keep it on ice or make a decision.

We are not (he said) contemplating a small or experimental service in Skytrain. We are dealing with a massive addition to airline capacity on the New York route. The figures startled me when I looked in detail at what was proposed.

Skytrain had been licensed to provide an extra 250,000 seats a year on the New York run when the total number of passengers on schedule and charter flights on the New York route was only 1,100,000.

It was the Government's firm view that a British Skytrain would be matched, probably from the start, by an American Skytrain of the same capacity, making a total of an extra 500,000 seats on the New York-London route. The total number carried by British Airways to New York and back last year was 350,000.

The consequences of such a massive extension of capacity were wholly predictable. There would be a major diversion of traffic from the scheduled carriers, both British Airways and the American airlines, to the new competing Skytrains. In the last few years there had been continued over-capacity on North American routes as a whole and on the New York route in particular. The total losses on North Atlantic services, according to IATA figures, reached some £300m in 1974.

It was not true, whatever the position in 1972, that passengers could not cross the Atlantic at much reduced fares. ABC Charters introduced in 1973 offered return fares of £150 at the peak, £124 at the shoulder and £108 in winter against the Skytrain fare of £118 return.

In April, 1975, APEX was introduced on scheduled flights offering seats of £167 in summer and £120 in winter. These seats had to be booked in advance and there were further conditions affecting the length of stay in the United States and United Kingdom respectively.

Certainly a substantial new opportunity had been provided for cheap air travel across the Atlantic since the Skytrain licence was issued in 1972.

The Government's best calculations were that the balance of payments would not gain from such a service. What was quite certain was that British Airways would suffer a substantial loss of revenue, at least £6m a year, and all attempts to make sense of over-capacity on the New York-London route would be undermined.

Growing business

He had considered the effect on Laker Airways. It would be naive to accept that Mr Laker's order of two DC10s just 10 days after the licence was issued by the CAA, before the appeal against it had been heard, before the Department of Trade had designated Skytrain, and before the consent of the American Government had even been sought, was wholly dependent on the Skytrain licence.

My belief (he said) is that Laker Airways will continue to be successful in its charter business and particularly in North America. It is not a company that depends upon Skytrain for its future. It is a large and growing business and my department is ready to continue to support them in their development.

The CAA would like to be given greater freedom to allow double designation on long-haul routes but this was not possible without introducing an undesirable element of uncertainty which would disrupt the long-term planning of both British Airways and BACL.

However, the policy guidance provided scope for the authority to licence another airline to operate a long-haul scheduled service within the sphere of interests of British Airways or BACL subject to certain conditions. It was right that the authority should have this discretion to deal with the situation in which one or other of the preferred airlines might not be doing as much as they should to develop services in their respective spheres.

The policy guidance was intended to cover the whole range of the CAA's activities. Outside the important area of long-haul scheduled services he had made only minor changes. His aim had been to leave the CAA with a substantial measure of discretion. Many aspects of economic regulation, for example the determination of fares, requires decisions from the authority that were crucial to the health of the industry.

The authority had been in existence for only four years. This was not perhaps long enough to allow them to make a final judgment on the merits of the major change in the machinery of government which its establishment involved.

Their preliminary assessment, however, must be favourable. What was now needed was a change of emphasis not a completely fresh start.

I am confident (he said) that the new guidance gets the emphasis right and so will provide a framework within which the British civil aviation industry will continue to develop and prosper.

Tory concern over local Bill: minister asks for changes

House of Lords

Lord Fletcher (Lab), moving the second reading of the Tyne and Wear Bill, said it was promoted by the Tyne and Wear County Council.

The need for the Bill arose from Section 262 of the Local Government Act, 1972, which repealed many of the enactments previously giving powers to a number of local authorities which had existed then. It became necessary that the newly created local authorities should be able to carry out and continue the duties entrusted to the former authorities. Of primary importance were the provisions of the Bill relating to the Tyne tunnel and the six bridges over the River Tyne and Wear.

There were apprehensions felt by some on Clause 103 and the promoters were prepared to make amendments in the Bill to limit the operation of that clause. The promoters did not intend that the clause should extend their existing statutory powers in relation to their functions. They would seek to amend the clause so that it merely made available to them an alternative legal means of implementing their existing statutory powers using to the full the specialized skills and knowledge available in the private sector in the interest of all parties.

Lady Young (C), for the Opposition, said the Bill should have a second reading, but the Government ought to bring in a major legislation on general powers for local authorities otherwise all authorities would be forced to promote private Bills of this nature and she could not believe that was in the best interests of Parliament or of local government.

There were five petitions against the Bill, so it would go automatically to the opposed Bills committee. Nearly all were against Clauses 48, 50, 102 and 103 which were major extensions of the powers now held by local authorities. There were grounds for believing that those powers were not necessary for what the local authorities wished to do.

It might be thought there were possible parallels with the South Glamorgan County Council Bill, but she did not believe that to be the case. The petitioners had made the point that the local authorities—the metropolitan county of Tyne and Wear and the fire district authorities—were seeking major extensions of their powers under Clause 48.

At present under existing legislation those authorities had the power to provide services, largely those of repairs and mai work, but added to them the power to construct on land which the author not own and in direct con with local industry and co

Clause 50 was another of local authority power. tention was to find a way ing industries with their of cash flow and to employment in the inner the cities within the metr county of Tyne and Wear was a precedent for such a in the Industry Act, 1972. those powers were necess should be a matter for government and not fo government. There mu accountability to the ratepa

Clause 102 extended the phical area over which labour departments could ments only had genera client, and that was the lo oriv. and they could only at district level in the area former county borough power in this clause woul them to tender for work operate over much wider a

Clause 103 created a local enterprise board of and Wear metropolitan She was not convinced was the proper use of rat money, and she was glad moters would amend it.

Lady Stedman, Baron Waiting, said that many provisions in the Bill woul the local authorities to co tively with some of their p The Secretary of State Environment (Mr Croslan raised a number of points promoters and had amendment of several pr including the powers to a dustry. The Government shortly be discussing th sions with the promote Secretary of State would ing them on March 5 an report to the select comm the Bill.

The Earl of Stannon (L there seemed to be a pop lacy that, as a contractor profit, if he was disposed job must be done cheape do-it-yourself approach very well for the private holder, but it was only because he provided his o labour. Local councils pr materials and employed la the same way as the tra they did not get large redu cost.

The Bill was read a secon

Government accused of prejudice

Mr Terence Higgins, Opposition spokesman on trade (Worthing, C), said there was an intrinsic contradiction in the Secretary of State's position on the Skytrain issue. On the one hand he argued that the Skytrain offered passengers nothing significantly better than anything now on offer, and, on the other hand, he argued that the public would prefer Skytrain to such an extent that it would have a traumatic effect on its competitors. He could not have it both ways.

It was difficult to avoid the conclusion that there was some inbuilt prejudice on the part of the Government against encouraging individual initiative and enterprise and allowing an entrepreneur to take risks and, if he was successful, get the profits and, if unsuccessful, bear the losses.

What was needed was a framework within which airlines could undertake investment, particularly in wide-bodied aircraft. That required a degree of stability. It was to be welcomed that the Secretary of State had come out in principle in support of the second force concept.

The important thing was that both airlines should have a framework within which they could invest with reasonable certainty about the future.

In present circumstances Mr Shore had made a powerful case about not having competition on routes by dual designation. But it would be a shame if they did not appreciate the difficulty which might arise in the market conditions.

The review had not carried out comprehensive assessment of the present fare structure. This was overdue. There was some confu*sion about the new fares.*

The market was still depressed but the Opposition supported the CAA view that both the designation and licence for Skytrain should remain in being and that in due course Laker should be given the chance to prove in the market place that their product was different and preferred by potential passengers.

Looking at the actual level of fares, the Skytrain proposal was substantially cheaper than the economy fare so-called. Consumers should be given the choice as to whether they had this service or went for the other arrangements mentioned by the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State's other objections were essentially the question of the balance of payments, the suggestion that it would wreck the present rationalization agreements on the North Atlantic run, and the loss to British Airways. Give or take £10m or perhaps £5m either way, it did not have any significant effect on the balance of payments.

Mr Russell Kerr (Hounslow, Feltham and Heston, Lab) said the proposals, at a time when storm signals had been showing for civil aviation, were reasonably acceptable and satisfactory to both British Caledonian and British Airways. Although a compromise heavily weighted towards private enterprise, the proposals would prove workable and avoid the redundancy of thousands of British Caledonian workers, with high and scarce skills Britain was likely to require in the years ahead.

The Secretary of State had saved something from the ashes with a formula which had a good even money chance of proving sufficiently viable over the next few years and would avoid the 20,000 redundancies which would result from the collapse of British Caledonian. That would stand Mr Shore in good stead when he went to meet the London Airport shop stewards in a few weeks time.

As for Skytrain, for the time being it would have been a criminally perverse decision to approve it, then spitting in the face of the flag carrier, British Airways. But the idea should not be buried. There was still a need to bring aviation into the reach of the masses.

In Europe flying was roughly twice as dear as it is in his native Australia. Better and cheaper travel should always be sought for the mass of people for whom flying could be, but was not yet, an unimaginable boon.

Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings, C) said the document put before Parliament was a scandalous misrepresentation of a very brave man's endeavour, enterprise and devotion to his country.

Did not the ordinary person—even his mother-in-law—have the right to travel the cheapest way possible? Why should the Secretary of State resist these good people, including his mother-in-law, travelling in the way they wanted to?

Mr Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford, C)—A one-way ticket. (Laughter.)

Mr Warren—I would willingly pay her fare both ways. (Laughter.)

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, Scot Nat) said an omission from the White Paper that would cause resentment in Scotland was the lack of reference to the resumption of the direct flights which took place from Scottish airports to foreign destinations. A Scottish Government would reverse this policy.

Mr John Stonehouse (Walsall, North, Lab) said he had misgivings about the Secretary of State's decision to withdraw licences for the operation of Skytrain. Nothing Mr Shore had said justified the decision to overrule the decision on this taken by the Civil Aviation Authority only last year.

It was deplorable of the Secretary of State to overturn the verdict of the CAA which had gone into the matter much more closely than he could have done. There was a certain amount of prejudice in the matter.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C) said that it must have taken considerable political courage for Mr Shore to fly in the face of the pressures which must have come from behind him, when one compared the proposals with those in the Labour manifesto.

Ending dual designation was broadly the right decision. British Airways now had the best management for a long time and had the most commercial approach of the nationalized industries with which he came into contact.

Mr Leslie Huckfield (Nuneaton, Lab) said the minister had made a valuable and long standing deci*sion in ending dual designation. It* was a major step forward and he accepted that Mr Shore had been motivated by the need to preserve employment in his allocation of spheres of influence.

Mr Timothy Renton (Mid Sussex, C) said he was alarmed at the unique and isolated emphasis of the Government's wish to promote the build-up of traffic at Gatwick. He was concerned that there would be growth by stealth in a haphazard and ill-planned form leading to the conversion of a rural, peaceful part of the country into a noisy, concrete jungle.

Growth at Gatwick should be planned and serve the needs of those who lived within Gatwick's own traffic generating area, South London and the South-East counties. Gatwick should not act as a dustbin for all the growth that Heathrow could not take, nor should it take the growth that was not going to regional airports because they had not been properly developed.

Mr Norman Tebbit, for the Opposition, said Mr Shore's decision on Skytrain was unfair and discriminatory to Mr Laker. It was restrictive, oppressive against the consumer interest and had sprung *from a misplaced bias against the* entrepreneurial little man in favour of the big battalions and the monopoly in industry.

He would ask the Opposition to reject his view on Laker though they accepted the rest of the guidelines as a brave and honest attempt to stabilize the British air travel industry.

Mr Clinton Davis, Under Secretary for Trade (Hackney, Central, Lab), said if the Opposition accepted the Government's objectives they were caught in the vortices of their own illogicality when they said the Government should consider Skytrain in isolation. This could not be done.

The operation of Skytrain would have been bound to have caused substantial diversion from British Airways, which the Government were not prepared to accept. All scheduled carriers were making losses on the North Atlantic, and British Airways were still losing on the New York service.

United States carriers had made clear that in negotiating pacts the Skytrain would have had to come out of the British share.

The Government motion was agreed to and an Opposition motion rejecting the Skytrain decision was defeated by 262 votes to 232—Government majority, 30.

Armed men to protect nuclear power plants from terrorist attacks

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy (Bristol, South-East, Lab), moving the second reading of the Atomic Energy Authority (Special Constables) Bill, said it dealt with the grave *threat of terrorism and the* possibility that terrorists might turn their minds to dangerous nuclear materials. The Government were recommending that special cover should be provided for fissile material for civil treatment.

The material might be in the form of uranium or plutonium and if not safeguarded from danger, might be used in certain circumstances to create a public hazard. There was always a risk that a ransom might be demanded from someone who had obtained such material.

The Government had decided to strengthen security at centres such as Harwell, Windscale, Dounreay, and Whitehaven and to consider further how the transit of materials might be handled.

Security had been strengthened at various buildings by means of fences, alarm systems, and communications with vehicles. But there was a risk of violence, in the judgment of the Government, and armed guards were needed to safeguard the materials and their transit.

They had to see that these materials did not fall into the wrong hands. If some incident occurred without the provision of armed protection people would *feel that the Government and Par*liament had let them down.

In many other countries, the materials concerned were already under armed guard. Since some international groups were interested in armed activities and looking round the world to see where they could acquire fissile materials, it would be awful for Britain to be seen as a soft target and thus provide an incentive for attack.

Armed guards were only a first line of defence in the protection operation. They would provide a powerful deterrent and were in a position to sound the alarm and hold an attack until reinforcements were available.

Under the Bill the Atomic Energy Authority constables, who were a proper police force under proper control, would be able to carry arms under standing orders of the authority.

Two practices were being brought into line. The practice that there should be armed protection for fissile material intended for military purposes was already there and the same protective arrangements were being brought into force for fissile material intended for civil purposes.

The second change was to bring the Atomic Energy Authority constabulary into line, for all the purposes referred to here, with the Ministry of Defence constabulary who already used and exercised the powers provided for in the Bill.

He had been asked if a constable could go anywhere with his gun at any time to try to recover fissile material and make an arrest. It was only envisaged that a constable would pursue a criminal or try to recover material in circumstances of hot pursuit: that was to say, immediately after an attack.

The Government had introduced this Bill reluctantly. The House and country recognized that there was a danger here and that people were entitled to know that the government of the day, with full parliamentary approval if that was vouchsafed, would give proper protection against hazards known to be real.

Mr John Hannam (Exeter, C), for the Opposition, said the Bill's implications for a nation which hitherto had managed to keep the use of civil arms to a minimum was worrying. Yet, in the context of world terrorism and the need for utmost protection for society, this kind of measure seemed inevitable.

If, as was implied in a report in *The Times*, an agreement was being drawn up between the major industrial countries, which presumably included the United Kingdom, this Bill would play an important part in that particular sort of international collaboration which he believed necessary.

It was essential that the high standard of safety in nuclear production techniques should be applied to security. It was a horrifying thought that murderous and ruthless bands of terrorists were likely to attempt to develop and use nuclear devices.

The Bill was right in its objectives but the creation of a separate police force caused alarm in Parliament and outside. MPs were concerned about the apparent freedom given to the nuclear constables to *enter other areas to search for* suspected offenders. There was a danger of conflict between the ordinary police force and the nuclear police force.

Terrorism and hijacking if extended to this area could cause devastating damage. Every effort must be made to prevent this.

Mr Arthur Palmer (Bristol, North-East, Lab) said there was a risk of the occupation of a nuclear power station by terrorists, entering perhaps by helicopters, and using their occupation to threaten the release of radioactivity. The Government must give thought to this possibility.

Mr Geoffrey Dodsworth (South-West Hertfordshire, C) said he had been surprised to learn that unguarded materials seemed sometimes to have been temporarily mislaid when being carried about the country. The Bill sought to provide arms as a defence or deterrent. It would help to know how many people likely to be effective in looking after installations and pipelines because the problem was enormous.

Mr John Cunningham (Whitehaven, Lab) said the Windscale Calder Hall plant was a massive installation which he hoped would *be further extended because of* new work. Even in a constituency like his the actual physical security of sites and of nuclear materials in transit had hardly been discussed until recently.

One thing which opponents and critics of the industry almost always ignored was that the very people who worked in it were as concerned as anyone.

The dilemma was that the public should be better informed but that this could defeat the object of maintaining the security of the sites and their products. Terrorist targets became larger and larger and their blackmail demands on society greater and greater. He regretted the Bill and deplored the circumstances of it but he recognized its necessity.

The stealing of fissile material by terrorists or insurgents, however, was entirely different from those terrorists having the facility to create nuclear weapons and there was a grave danger that this possibility had been over-simplified. He wanted to disabuse some of his own constituents and others who had written to him.

I do not believe (he said) that a few guerrillas in a garret in the Cumbria hills can steal fissile material and in no time at all produce a nuclear weapon. That is rubbish. It would take informed scientists.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick upon Tweed, L) said it was clear that they could not establish as they could with their civil police what general provision governed the use of firearms by the force they were discussing.

There was more disquiet among the civil police than ministers seemed to realize. He did not see how he could ask Liberal MPs to support this measure unless the House could have undertakings far beyond those given by Mr Benn at the beginning of the debate.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East, Scot Nat)—There was a need for security but unless assurances were given about the powers of the constables the SNP might be forced to divide the House.

Mr Alexander Eadie, Under Secretary for Energy (Midlothian, Lab), said the Bill would give the AEA police access to whatever types of weapons were appropriate for their guarding duties. Pistols would be carried as with other police forces. Heavier single shot weapons would be available if needed. The constabulary would be entitled to carry automatic wea*pons such as sub-machine guns.*

It was likely that the terrorist making an attack on a nuclear site would use such weapons and it was intended that automatic weapons should be available for use, if necessary, by the police guarding sites.

The Bill was read a second time by 104 votes to 11—Government majority, 93.

The Education (School-Leaving Dates) Bill was read a second time.

House adjourned, 10.35 pm.

Refusal to be shackled on exclusive fishing

Mr Patrick Wall (Haltemprice, C) asked if the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had made any estimate of the effect which the international introduc*tion of a 200 mile exclusive* economic zone (EEZ) would have on the British fishing industry.

Mr Frederick Peart—The effect must depend on the outcome of Community reappraisal of the common fisheries policy and upon possible negotations with third countries.

Mr Wall—It is essential to have within this EEZ a 100-mile exclusive zone if the British fishing industry is to have a future. What is he doing to prepare protection for the 100-mile exclusive and the 200-mile international limits?

Mr Peart—I am aware of the views of the industry. We stand by our desire to move to a 200-mile limit.

Mr Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull, Central, Lab)—Is it the Government's intention in the negotiations to press for an exclusive economic zone for British fishermen of 100 miles and not just to support the idea of going up to 200 miles exclusive zone? Is that the present negotiation position?

Mr Peart—No. It is not. This view has been put to us by the industry. I am looking at it carefully. I am anxious to protect our fishery interests. I do not want to be shackled at the beginning.

Discussions tied cottages

Mr Tim Renton (Mid Sussex, C) asked what discussions the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was having concerning the tenure of service cottages in the agricultural industry.

Mr Gavin Strang, Parliamentary Secretary (Edinburgh, East, Lab)—There has been a series of discussions at ministerial and official level following publication last August of the consultative document. These discussions will continue as necessary for the purpose of preparing related legislation.

Provision and cost of gypsy sites

Mr John Silkin, Minister for Planning and Local Government, announced in a written reply that he had asked Mr John Cripps, Chairman of the Countryside Commission for England and Wales, to undertake a study with the following terms of reference:

"To consider the effectiveness of the arrangements to secure adequate accommodation for gypsies in England and Wales, as required by Part II of the Caravan Sites Acts, 1968, with especial reference to: the financial and administrative arrangements for the implementation of the Act; and the provisions for the exemption of local authorities and the designation of their areas."

Protecting rare animals without hampering trade

The Divorce (Scotland) Bill and the Solicitors (Scotland) Bill were read the third time and passed.

Lady Stedman, Baroness in Waiting, moving the second reading of the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Bill, said it provided powers to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora. The convention provided for the control of the imports and exports of whole specimens of certain animals.

The convention came into force in July, 1975. The Government regretted that although they had implemented the convention they had not yet been able to ratify it. They had been seeking agreement on the best course of action with the European Community Commission and their partners.

Discussions were well advanced and the Government expected to be able to ratify the convention early this summer. They intended to ratify it in time to play a full part in the first conference of the parties to the convention to be held in November.

The convention covered several hundred species of animals and plants and required a variety of forms of control. But in setting up controls they had in mind not only the need to protect rare species of animals and plants, but the need to avoid hampering unnecessarily the free flow of legitimate trade.

In certain sectors, such as the fur trade and the tanning industry, there was an important trade which provided employment and valuable exports. Those assets must be preserved.

It was tempting to say that controls should be adopted on anything that was derived from an endangered species but that would be impracticable.

Lord Mowbray Segrave and Stourton, for the Opposition the Bill was welcomed. were, however, some known to be endangered which were not on the lis including the chestnut belli ming bird and the South A red lined turtle.

The otter family was k have some members of its threatened with extinction of trade in their pelts.

As it was difficult to di taxonomically between danger and those who w was there not a good controlling trade in the group or family of animals

The Earl of Cranbrook that this would be a diffi to administer. The animal were those in which ther trade. It was a disgra Britain did not control an transit.

Viscount Massereene a rard (C) asked why, no were imitation materials. dangered species should for the adornment of beings. He did not underst otters had been left out of

Lord Chelwood (C) as proper control could be over rare birds if there control over their eggs. T nothing in the Bill about t

Lady Stedman said the of otters had posed certa lems of identification and If there was to be control be in the form of contr common species in which t legitimate trade. The Gov were investigating the sut would be talking to the tra it.

The Bill was read a seco

House adjourned, 6.56 p

Next week's business

Business in the House of Commons will be:

MONDAY: Road Traffic (Seat Belts) Bill, second reading.
TUESDAY: Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths inquiry (Scotland) Bill, second reading. Freshwater and Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, and Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill, remaining stages.
WEDNESDAY: Ruling (Caravan Sites) Bill, second reading. Greater London Council (General Powers) Bill, second reading.
THURSDAY: Race Relations Bill, second reading. Motion on EEC documents on lead pollution.
FRIDAY: English Development Agencies Bill, Designators Bill, and other private members' Bills, second reading.

Business in the House of Commons will be:

TUESDAY: Trade Union and Relations (Amendment) Bill stage. Prevention of Terroris porary Provisions) Bill, stage. Education (Scotlan second reading.
WEDNESDAY: Debate on affairs. Debatable question o Alderman Dilleigh and Trosler.
THURSDAY: Shops (Holiday Sunday Trading) Bill, Consum Water Charges Bill and th Carriage of Perishable Foods second reading. Debatable qu local councillors employed corporations.

Complaint of cheating with mouldy potatoes

Mr William Molloy (Ealing, North, Lab) asked for a statement on the present level of potato prices.

Mr Edward Bishop, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Newark, Lab)—The average United Kingdom producer price for the week ending February 21 was about £183 a ton and retail prices in a range of 9.5p to 14p a lb.

Mr Molloy—Housewives and greengrocer retailers who were angered at the price increase have been further incensed because mouldy, sub-standard potatoes *have been put in with potatoes for* home consumption. This is a disgraceful form of cheating.

Mr Bishop—There have been no general complaints on this matter although they may be centred on some areas. I think the remedy for those concerned would be through the Food and Drug Acts.

Mr Francis Pym, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Cambridgeshire, C)—The important thing is to ensure that a realistic guaranteed price level is arranged in the price review so that we make sure that the full acreage is taken up and supplies will be adequate.

Mr Bishop—I recognize that the guaranteed price is a factor in this but we will have to await the price review. Nevertheless there are further factors which have to be taken account in the actual acreage planted.

Although he fully recognized that the potato shortage had caused some problems for many, he thought many people would do well to reduce their consumption.

Although many MPs would like to carry more weight in public affairs (he said) I think the potato does not always put it in the right place.

Pressure on Russia to let people out

During questions to the Prime Minister.

Mr Peter Rost (South-East Derbyshire, C) asked where he stood on the defence cuts, which an all-party select committee had today unanimously condemned as a Government folly and threat to British security. Moscow was doing a marvellous public relations job on promoting the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs Thatcher) as the "Witch of the Western World", as she had the courage to warn the nation of the dangers of appeasement and disarmament.

Mr Harold Wilson (Huyton, Lab)—There is no ministerial responsibility for Moscow. It is a typically humourless reaction to Mrs Thatcher's recent discovery that the Berlin Wall was built 15 *years ago.*

With regard to defence policy, I notice Mrs Thatcher said in a *Panorama* broadcast that she was not quarrelling with 94 per cent of the defence cuts but only the last 6 per cent. That will not be enough to pull down the Berlin Wall.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Finchley, C)—When will the Prime Minister concentrate on seeing that this country is properly defended and concentrate his diplomatic policy on seeing people can fly to freedom from communist tyranny if they wish?

Mr Wilson—This country is much better defended within the 94 per cent cut in defence which she has accepted in her broadcast.

With regard to people flying from the communist countries—the Soviet Union and communist union—if she will inquire she will find out how many people over the last 20 years have come out of the Soviet Union as a result of my requests and pressures. (Conservative laughter.)

It is not a laughing matter. I would refer to the statement of Moshe Dayan when Ruth Alexandrovich came out and said she was let out in response to my request.

Mrs Thatcher, on coming back from Romania was stupid enough to publish a list of people she had asked for. I am happy to say that a much bigger number were released this week as a result of representations I made.

Hereditary farm tenancies

Sir Anthony Meyer (West Flint, C) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many sons succeeded to their fathers' tenancies last year and what percentage of tenancies created last year this represented.

Mr Frederick Peart (Workington, Lab)—My department does not keep this information.

Sir Anthony Meyer—Despite his laudable attempts to ensure some kind of preference succession for the sons of tenant farmers would he reflect on the awful warning of the Government's attempts in relation to housing to provide for security of tenure, which have led to the biggest increase in homelessness ever recorded?

Mr Peart—I hope he will study carefully the new clauses—to the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill—which I have put on the order paper. The National Farmers Union feel strongly about this. Their propaganda during the last debate we had on the Bill emphasized that they were anxious that we should do something. We are going to do it.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today: 11.00: Divorce (Scotland) (No 3) Bill, Licensing (Amendment) (No 3) Bill and other private members' Bills, second reading.

'The Times' and No 10

Mr Michael Brotherton (Louth, C) asked when the Prime Minister next expected to meet the Chairman of the Press Council (Lord Shawcross).

Mr Harold Wilson—I have no plans to meet the Chairman of the Press Council in the near future.

Mr Brotherton—When he meets the Chairman of the Press Council, will he discuss the continuing refusal of the Prime Minister's office to communicate fully with *The Times*? It is a disgrace that these people should be paid by the taxpayers and yet they are selective in how they discharge their duties.

Mr Wilson—There is a question of legal proceedings here. . . .

Mr Brotherton—Nothing to do with it.

Mr Wilson—. . . which Mr Brotherton, as a former employee of *The Times*, should know all about. (Loud Labour interruptions) I am happy to tell him, with his contacts he should have known, that *The Times* gets exactly the same from Number 10 as any other newspaper, although they do not always deserve it.

Labour chief sees threat of coalition government in EEC elections

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Labour MPs reacted strongly yesterday to an article in this week's *Labour Weekly* by Mr Ronald Hayward, the party general secretary, in which he seemed to argue that direct elections to the European Parliament would bring disadvantages to Britain and to the Labour Party in particular.

The heading on the article, "Direct elections, the first step to a European federation", does not entirely tally with the actual words used by Mr Hayward, although he does state: "What is in question is the further erosion of British sovereignty and the power of the House of Commons".

Each of the nine member countries, he says, is out to do the best for itself and to date there has been little "community" or "European" thinking. An agreement to recognize the MPLA in Angola went sadly astray when the French jumped the gun.

Mr Hayward states: "There are, of course, many people in Western Europe . . . who sincerely and genuinely want to see the EEC develop into a real community. They see the future as a federation of Western Europe, with the European Assembly having real power over the national parliaments within the EEC. Some . . . envisage a federal Europe as the third power able in all respects to stand alongside the two world powers of the United States of America and the USSR."

But Mr Hayward points out to the enthusiasts that the national executive and the Labour Party voted 13 to none in January to request the Government not to commit the United Kingdom to direct elections until the national executive and the Labour Party conference have had an opportunity to discuss the important implications.

One is that eventually the Community may decide on a unified system of elections to the European Parliament. "Supposing the system of proportional representation is introduced, will we be able to resist the pressures that will follow to introduce the same method not only for European elections but also for our own general elections?", Mr Hayward asks.

"Proportional representation means coalition government at Westminster, on the lines of our European partners, and it is goodbye then to any dreams or aspirations for a democratic socialist Britain."

Although most Labour MPs would regard that as a defeatist suggestion, Mr Hayward does state that the referendum result "signposted the road on which we would travel and the Government's Green Paper accelerates our speed along the European highway".

Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Fife, Central, and a member of the European Parliament, had better understand that he does not formulate policy for the Labour Party. The party decided to have a referendum a gave the nation's decision wish to continue Britain's ship of the European inst Therefore we have got them work and make the accountable to the peopl

"For us to democrat Community *there must* b elections, and the Labou must formulate a Europea on which we can campai

For Labour MPs directly to the European Parliame was the difficulty of h would be made accountabl Parliamentary Labour Part national executive and th conference.

Mr John Roper, chairma Labour Committee for said: "I would agree Hayward that the Gover Green Paper points the wa next step in Europe; but I think at this stage we are about a federal Western

"The decision to have elections to the European ment is an important democratize the Communit believe that many in the Party, irrespective of thei last June, would now wam this done."

The Parliamentary Labor last night extended the of the 12 MPs and six pe make up the Labour delegat the European Parliamen March, 1977. Their appoi would have come up for *sideration in July the mi* the European parliamentar

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

We'll take more care of you

British airways ANNOUNCE

No 8 Friday, February 27, 1976

Fly the flag.

The only jumbo service to the East Caribbean

NOW TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS GET 747s

By ANNOUNCE REPORTER

THE BOEING 747 jumbo jet is to be introduced between London, Barbados and Trinidad by British Airways from April because of the expanding business market in the eastern Caribbean.

The airline will continue to operate 707 flights to that area.

The wide-body service will depart on Saturdays — which the airline's experience has shown as the day on which most people want to travel to this area — leaving London, at 1115.

It will fly non-stop to Barbados, and then go on to Port of Spain, Trinidad.

The arrival of the 747 on this important route will increase the number of seats on offer by British Airways this coming summer.

Upstairs bar

For all passengers between London and the eastern Caribbean, the spacious 747 will offer a new dimension in travel, with the added facility for those in the first-class cabin of an upstairs lounge and bar.

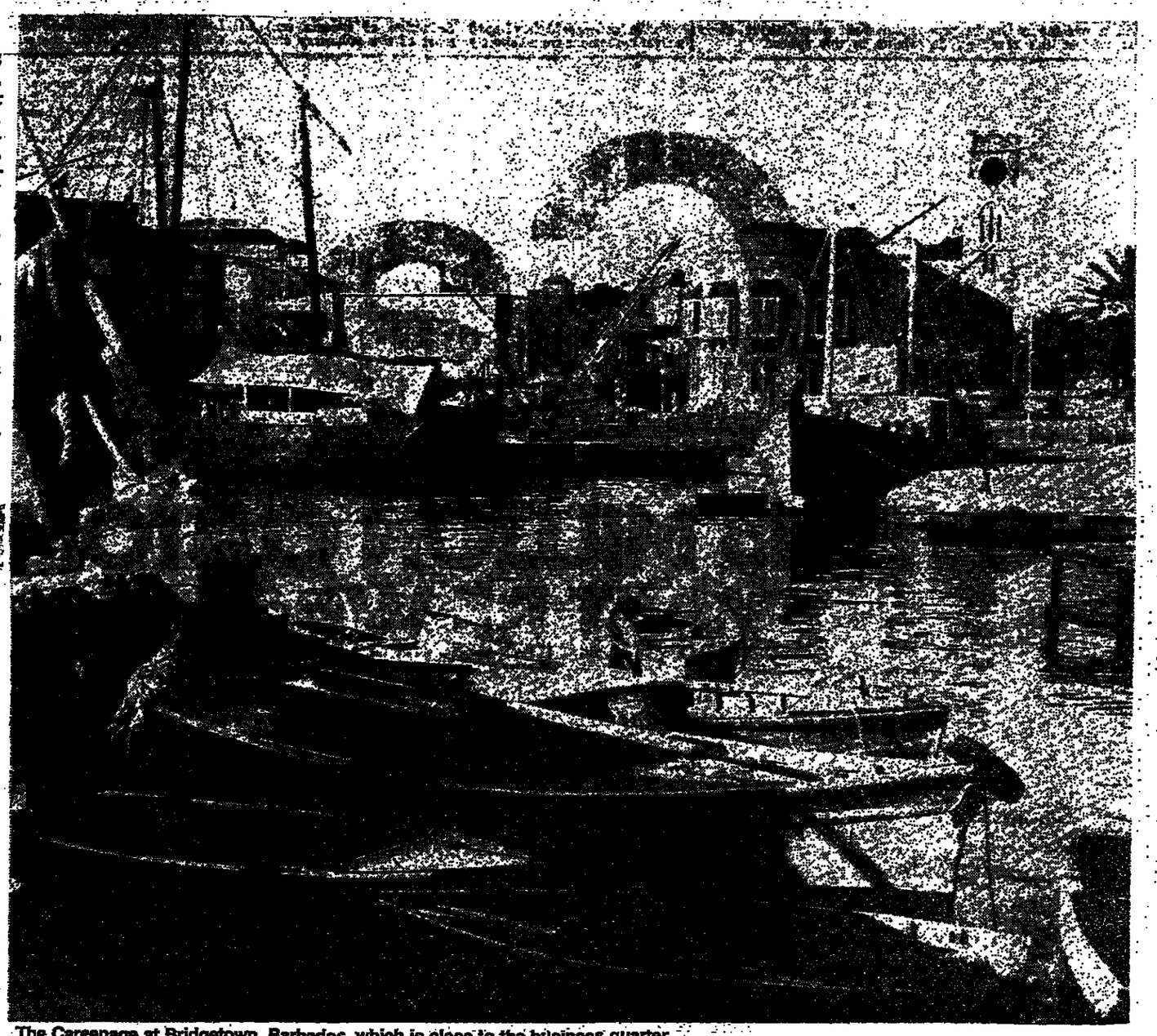
For holiday makers able to make their plans at least two months before they want to fly, OAT offer low Advanced Booking Charter fares to Barbados on the 747.

Passengers wanting to fly on to Grenada and St Vincent will have same-day connections from Barbados, while those bound for Tobago will have a similarly quick service from Port of Spain.

Four flights

The British Airways 747 service each Saturday will be backed up by Boeing 707 flights to Barbados from London on Mondays (Tuesdays from the beginning of June), Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, and to Trinidad on Mondays, Tuesday (from June), Thursdays and Sundays.

To Antigua, British Airways has four non-stop flights each week, to Georgetown four flights each week, and to St Lucia two flights each week.



The Careenage at Bridgetown, Barbados, which is close to the business quarter.

February route report:

NORTH AMERICA

Victory on U.S. routes

ORE passengers flew from Britain to the SA with British Airways last summer than ith any other airline.

Indeed, on scheduled services from the United ingdom to the United States, British Airways rried a third more passengers than any comtitor.

This too is a great year to go to North merica — for holidaymakers, businessmen, portsmen, everyone. There are three tremendus attractions:

★ The Bicentennial. The United States will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of its dependence, from coast to coast. And there ll be a great welcome for the British.

★ The Olympic Games in Montreal. It is likely, once again, to be one of the greatest shows on rth.

★ The expected upswing in the North American economy. This must bring big opportities to British exporters.

The gateways

or all travellers, British Airways is the best way oss the North Atlantic. It has more services out he UK than any other airline and serves ten key es — Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, mi, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, ntreal and Toronto.

ll these cities can be reached by direct flights n London's Heathrow, and, in addition, there direct services to New York, Montreal and onto from Glasgow and Manchester.

t three of the gateway cities, British Airways built "air bridges" with U.S. airlines to other s.

he air bridges are:

From Miami to the oil and space city of Houston, with Continental Airlines.

From Miami to the resort of Tampa, with Eastern Airlines.

From Washington to New Orleans, the oil city and jazz capital of the world, also with Eastern.

From Chicago to San Francisco, the financial centre of the West with United Airlines.

From Chicago to the industrial centre of Dallas with Braniff International.

hicago is the transport crossroads of the thern United States, British Airways operas there are particularly strong, with good conting flights by United and American Airlines. erican also offers connections from British ways services at Boston, New York and hington.

The cost

ere is a range of fares to suit every traveller to h America.

First-class and economy fares are primarily for those who fly on business.

Poundstretcher low fares for the leisure market. Shown below are return fares to York for April to June but there are similar categories on all scheduled flights:

22 to 45 day advance purchase excursion (APEX) from £130

22 to 45 day excursion from £165

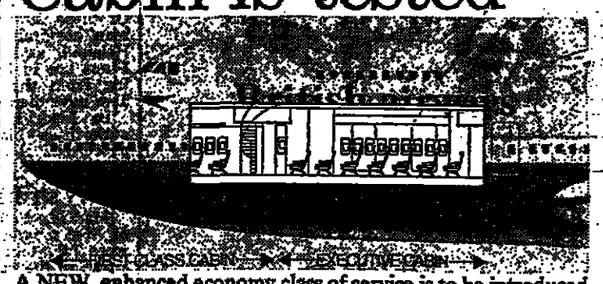
14 to 21 day excursion from £214

ere are also Advance Booking Charter flights ritish Airways by O.A.T. available to New , Chicago, Los Angeles, and Toronto. Prices ummer start at £116.

r quality inclusive holidays, British Airways reign and Speedbird holidays start at £180 wo weeks.

d remember there will soon be another great n for flying to America — CONCORDE!

New Executive Cabin is tested



A NEW, enhanced economy class of service is to be introduced by British Airways primarily for the business traveller.

Beginning as an experiment in April between London and Hong-Kong the 48 seats of zone B on Boeing 747 aircraft — the section immediately behind first-class — will become an Executive Cabin, available to full fare-paying economy passengers, the majority of whom are business travellers.

If the experiment is successful, the new cabin will be introduced on other routes.

Free

Zone B has been chosen for its convenience for easy embarkation, rapid disembarkation and service. Bar service is free. A choice of smoking or non-smoking seats will be available and audio in-flight entertainment and magazines will be provided free.

British Airways is also considering the practicality of providing dictating facilities and air-to-ground radio telephone.

Trunk lines are busy

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to increase the frequency of its flights to Belfast to six each weekday from April 1. This is in line with the policy of continually improving services on the domestic trunk routes from London Heathrow to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast.

High frequency — and the guaranteed service of the Glasgow Shuttle — mean that businessmen can often complete assignments in half a day.

And the services to Heathrow give businessmen in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast the added benefit of easy connections to flights around the world.

CHEFS from British Airways had a great day at the Hotelympia 1976 competition in London. Above are the chefs with their trophies.

The Concorde package

THE world's first supersonic inclusive tours will start on March 1. These British Airways Sovereign Holidays to Bahrain are tailored to suit both business-hunters and travellers who want to be among the first to fly in Concorde.

The price for this unique tour? For a basic Monday to Thursday stay, £785 for a single room or £742 for each person sharing a double room.

● British Airways services to India, Australia and the Far East can be joined in Bahrain by those travellers who want to make the first part of their journey by Concorde.

Jordan gets new VC10 service

BRITISH AIRWAYS re-started services to Jordan on February 21 after an absence of eight years. It has introduced a weekly non-stop service to Amman with its popular, rear-engined VC10 airliner.

The new service leaves London at 1215 on Saturdays and arrives in Amman at 1850 local time. From April, the service will be stepped up to twice-weekly, with a departure from London on Wednesdays in addition to Saturdays.

Rawalpindi

These flights will depart London at 1600 and continue on from Amman to Rawalpindi — a brand new destination for British Airways. Rawalpindi provides access to Northern Pakistan towns such as Lahore, Lyallpur, Peshawar and Multan.

● In addition to Amman, Beirut is served three times a week.

● British Airways now has a more comprehensive coverage of the eastern Mediterranean area than any other airline.

It serves 12 destinations in this region, and virtually all of its flights are non-stop from London. London/Athens is British Airways' busiest route in the area. Eighteen services each week cater for businessmen, holidaymakers and those going to visit friends and relations.

Bus to the sky

FOR an increasing number of British Airways passengers, their journeys start not at Heathrow Airport, London, but at one of the airline's two town terminals.

The terminal at Victoria offers travellers full check-in facilities and a quick ride out to the airport by coaches that connect with British Airways inter-continental flights from Heathrow's Terminal Three.

At the West London Terminal, passengers booked on European and domestic services can use a frequent bus service — one every ten minutes during peak times.

Bus fare from both terminals is 80p.

For reservations and further details, see your local travel agent or British Airways shop.

WEST EUROPE

Portugal leaders sign agreement to introduce civilian rule

From Michael Knipe
Lisbon, Feb 26

Portugal's military and civilian leaders tonight signed a new power-sharing pact to precede general elections and the introduction of civilian rule.

Under the terms of the pact the Revolutionary Council, a military body, will relinquish its supreme powers and become a consultative one in all but defence and other military matters.

The five main parties who signed the document in a televised ceremony at the presidential palace were the socialists, the centre-left Popular Democrats, the Communists and their allies, the Portuguese Democratic Movement and the Centre Social Democrats.

The pact is to be written into the new constitution, on the basis of which free parliamentary elections—the first for 50 years—are to be held this spring.

A five-man military committee and the leaders of the five main political parties spent eight weeks negotiating the new agreement. They have reached accord only just in time for the necessary constitutional procedures to be completed for the general elections to be held, as promised, by April 25.

The new pact replaces one under which the Armed Forces Movement (MFA) was to retain supreme revolutionary power for a three to five-year period. It is thus a victory for the non-Communist elements who have strongly resented the continuing political domination of the military leaders. The Communist Party and other left-wing elements favour the idea of the MFA remaining as the "motor" of the revolution.

A last-ditch effort to retain something of this role was abandoned last night after objections from the non-Communist parties.

Reconciling Frenchmen with their telephones

Minister pledges to cut waiting time for both new lines and dialling tone

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 26

A current joke in France is that half the country is waiting for a telephone and the other half is waiting for a dialling tone. The fact that M Norbert Segard, the State Secretary for Posts and Telegraphs is the seventh holder of that office in two years must, in the opinion of many Frenchmen, be connected with what appears to be the permanent incapacity of the country to endow itself with a modern and efficient telephone system.

This is the more so as M Segard's predecessor, M Aymar Achille-Fould, had been successful if not in making the telephone efficient—he was not given the time—at least, in bringing back peace and harmony to relations between the Government and post and telephone workers after the great strike of November 1974. His exclusion from that post in the last reshuffle was all the more surprising; but it was essentially political.

M Segard demonstrated his efficiency and drive when, as Minister for Overseas Trade, he visited 40 countries and travelled about 190,000 miles in 18 months, breaking the record of Dr Kissinger, the United States Secretary of State, and earning himself the nickname of the Government's "commercial traveller". He seems determined to apply these gifts to his new job.

He told a press conference today, the first since he took over the post, that by 1982 it would take a fortnight on average to obtain a telephone. At present the waiting time is about one year, though that is an improvement on the 16 months required in 1974.

By 1982, M Segard went on, the French telephone network should have caught up with that of other leading European countries, with 20 million lines in operation, compared with seven million today.

It is an ambitious objective, which Frenchmen are bound to view with a good deal of scepticism. Every new Minister of Posts begins his tour of duty with similarly attractive promises. But M Segard emphasized that an unprecedented financial effort was being made to ensure these promises did not only remain on paper.

The investment budget for telephones would increase this year by 27 per cent to 18,700,000 francs (£2,700,000). The number of additional public telephones would be raised from 5,000 to 7,000. At present there are about 23,000 throughout the country, or 43 per 100,000 inhabitants. In Britain and the German Federal Republic, the ratio is 133 and 139 respectively.

Those who already have the telephone will be given the choice, at a price, of several improved models of receivers, with a keyboard instead of a dial; a special switch to prevent asides from being heard at the other end; a locking system to stop unauthorized users from making long-distance calls; and a telephone without wires which can be carried round from one room to another.

The minister said that the object was to "reconcile Frenchmen with the telephone". It was a long-term objective, but an unprecedented effort had already been made. Thus when 4.5 per cent of telephone users waited more than three seconds for a dialling tone in 1975, now only 2.5 per cent did so.

"The saying that half France was waiting for the telephone and the other for the dialling tone was therefore about to become a legend", he added. This would be achieved by the introduction of new telephone exchanges this year. Telephone directories would be made more legible.

M Segard also promised a more efficient postal service, and the creation of a "city express" delivery service, which existed so far only between cities on an experimental basis in Lyons, Marseilles, Rennes, Saint-Brieuc, and Metz. Letters and parcels up to 5 kilos (up to 11lb) would be delivered within hours within these towns.

Italian minister view CIA charges lightly

From Our Correspondent
Rome, Feb 26

Signor Mariano Rumor, the Italian Foreign Minister, today dealt lightly with allegations of political interference by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Italy as fresh charges of intrigues arrived from Washington.

Behaviour which did not make for "clarity in our relations" should not be neglected, Signor Rumor told the Chamber of Deputies foreign relations committee. But he emphasized that Italy's friendship and alliance with the United States were and must remain beyond discussion.

Signor Rumor was speaking as Parliament came to grips with the urgent issues which have been accumulating during seven weeks of inactivity imposed by the government crisis.

Signor Moro's weak Christian Democrat minority Government last night cleared its final hurdle when it received the Senate's vote of confidence. The Government owes its existence to the abstention in both houses of its former allies, the Socialists and Republicans.

Immediately the Chamber of Deputies was forced to face up to the burning issue of abortion, which poses the main threat to the Government's survival.

The debate finds the lay and left-wing parties lined up apparently irreconcilably against the Christian Democrats and neo-fascists, yet failure to pass the Bill in the next few weeks will mean a national referendum on the issue, which only the neo-fascists want.

Time is scarce because Parliament will be in recess for most of next month while four parties hold congresses. Meanwhile, the neo-fascists are attempting to stop the debate on a constitutional point and have listed 35 members to speak, while the Christian Democrats have put down 12.

Speaking in the foreign relations committee on the CIA and Lockheed corruption allegations Signor Rumor said the Government would continue to do everything nece obtain all the docu from the United States sional committee of tion.

"It is necessary atmosphere of uncert suspicion should not ac in such an important our international relat said. It was in the ir both Italy and the Unit to eliminate any "de

Signor Umberto C communist, replied th Rumor did not seem realized the importan revelations by the P mittee investigating t

He asked whether cases of political and corruption, other str money have not been by the United States s vice to fuel terrorism

Claiming that the States had spent m 51,000m lire (about Italy to prevent the Co attaining power, Signo called for a firmer r cause otherwise Ital lose its description as pendent country".

The Turin daily n *La Stampa* today what it claimed were of the Pike commissio linking a former Amer bassador in Rome wit Vito Miceli, former he Italian secret service. charged with plotting and 50 Italian politicia

The alleged docume cated that about $800,0 $400,000) said to have by Mr Graham Martin mer ambassador, to Miceli to finance a r press campaign were for that purpose.

Instead, General M alleged to have confes to Mr Martin's succe John Volpe, that he p money on to 50 politi the same time he be Volpe to continue the funds because otherwi would "turn against" Volpe refused, *La Stam*

The incident allege place a year before Miceli was arrested.

10,000 at Alicante funeral

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Feb 26

About 10,000 people today attended the funeral in Eldu, near Alicante, of a young worker shot dead by police in a demonstration yesterday. Paramilitary Civil Guards guarded the cemetery and hundreds of workers took the day off to attend the funeral.

Workers today planned to hold a one-day strike in protest against the shooting. In Alicante, police broke up a protest demonstration.

The commission set up to study constitutional reform, made up of Cabinet ministers and members of the Council of the National Movement, the country's one legal political organization, has reached agreement on the right of political association. But as the deliberations of the commission are not made public, Spaniards are none the wiser about their rights in this sphere.

UN seeks new sites for strike-bound conferences

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Feb 26

Arrangements for the relocation of strike-bound conferences were being sought today as the Palais des Nations, the European office of the United Nations, remained paralysed for the second day running, deprived of power, heating and telephone services.

Strike leaders said they hoped a firm agreement would shortly be reached with the administration on salary increases of about 16 per cent, retroactive to last year. This is in accordance with the original mutual commitment to abide by the results of an independent survey comparing United Nations wage levels with those prevailing commercially in Geneva.

The net monthly salary (after deduction of income tax) of most of the voluntary strikers is said to average between 2,000 and 2,500 Swiss francs (about £400 to £500)—approximately the same as in the upper category of experienced multilingual secretaries in Geneva.

While the 200 staff of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) secretariat held a one-day sympathy strike today, the specialized agencies, such as the International Labour Organization, have continued working. While the outcome of the survey applies equally to them, their directors have given assurances apparently regarded as satisfactory.

The disarmament conference was among the eight that should have met today in the palais. The Human Rights Commission of 32 nations is already using a Swiss-owned conference centre near the palais, an example others may follow. Narcotics commission delegates met at an hotel.

Mr Jones urges 35-hour week throughout EEC

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Feb 26

Carrying his offensive against unemployment into the councils of the EEC, Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, called here today on European governments, employers and trade unions to campaign jointly for a 35-hour working week.

Speaking at a meeting of the EEC's economic and social committee, Mr Jones said that a shorter working week was necessary to counter a clear international trend of rising structural and technological unemployment.

Mr Jones went on: "Given that for reasons of economic and social justice we must insist on the ever more progressive distribution of income and wealth, and a return to full employment, I submit that governments, employers and unions must share out the available work through a substantial reduction of the working week".

Enlarging on his proposal later to journalists, Mr Jones said that he had in mind a 35-hour week. He intended to raise the matter tomorrow at a meeting of the executive board of the European Trade Unions Confederation (ETUC) and hoped to get backing for his proposal at the ETUC congress in April.

The TUC had long supported a 35-hour week, Mr Jones said, but to introduce it un would weaken British tiveness. If adopted th Europe, however, it co about a substantial red the unemployment lev

Mr Jones made clea saw a 35-hour week a the answer to fun structural changes in ment. "New indust capital-intensive and more with fewer pe there is evidence that can be reduced by a of working hours", he

In his speech to mittee, Mr Jones urg economic reflation EEC countries with b payment surpluses create expanding de the output of other and the rest of the wo

The prospect of th countries being dragg and further back by th of servicing mounting and external debt was spelt disaster to any community.

The committee also a report presented by Basnett, general sec the General and Workers Union, its r on unemployment, wh on governments to national targets for r in unemployment lev a specified time. Ther more than five millio in the EEC.

Airline food poisoning toll now four

Pinneberg, West Germany, Feb 26.—Two German men holidaymakers have died after returning from the Canary Islands in a Spanish charter airliner.

Health authorities said 385 more Germans are suffering from food poisoning in Germany and in the Canary Islands. Of these 33 are in West German hospitals. A report from Helsinki says that about 70 Finns are in hospital after flying from the Canary Islands. Two have died.

In Madrid, Spanish health authorities blamed food prepared in Las Palmas.

Lorry strike spreads

Madrid, Feb 26.—Four out of five Spanish lorry drivers were idle today as a four-day strike in the capital against tax arrangements spread to all parts of the country.

Man arreste in French kidnapping

From Our Own Corre
Paris, Feb 26

A man suspected one of the kidna Christian Mérieux, nin., in December, arrested in Paris, the of the Interior said was named as M Louis

The man was caug day while trying to c gold bars some of th notes in which the ra been paid.

The boy, son of the and director general ing French phar firm, and grandson founder of Berliet, building firm, was fr payment of a 16 (£1,700,000) ransom.

The police throug three days of the k have maintained a news blackout on the

Swedes may end penalt for incest after age of 1

From Our Correspondent
Stockholm, Feb 26

Proposals to abolish penalties for incest for people over 18, and to lower the age of sexual consent from 15 to 14, were met with general approval today by Swedish political leaders. The proposals were submitted to the Justice Ministry by a Government commission.

They also urged revised legislation deleting special references to homosexual acts, so that the legal system would view homosexual as well as heterosexual activities without distinction.

Informed sources said that all five Swedish political parties generally favoured the commission's report and that legislation based upon it might be passed in Parliament as next year.

The report noted t young people were hav course before the a without legal action, in certain circumsta age of consent should lower than 14. Recen have noted that grow bers of Swedes in the age bracket have h course.

Other recommenda clude punishing exh only if molestation oc reducing the minimum for rape from two yea months' imprisonmen occurs relatively rar country which views enlightened in ma sexual behaviour.

Gas

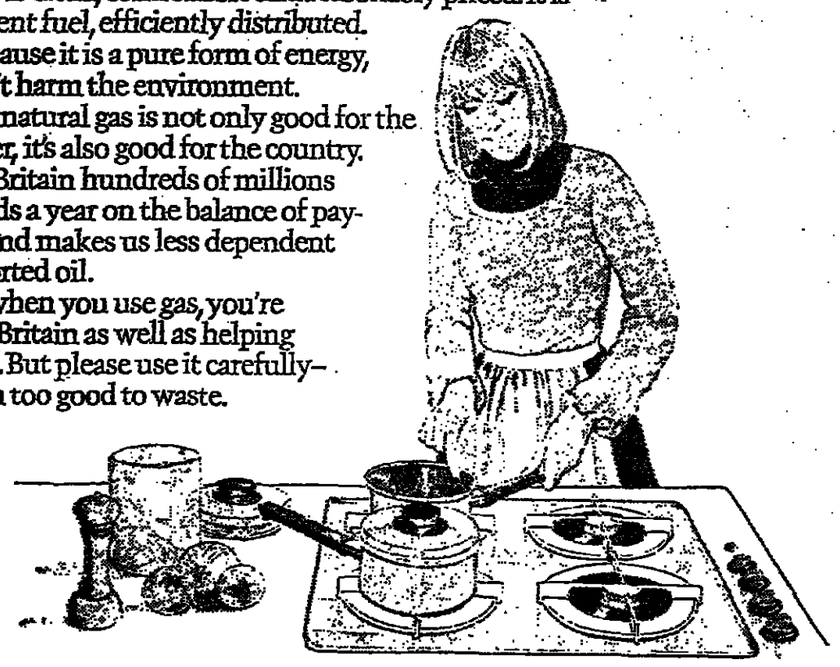
OVER 13 MILLION CUSTOMERS CAN'T BE WRONG.

Millions of people have chosen to use gas to heat their homes and cook their meals–and with good reason.

Gas is clean, controllable and reasonably priced. It is an efficient fuel, efficiently distributed. And because it is a pure form of energy, it doesn't harm the environment.

But natural gas is not only good for the customer, it's also good for the country. It saves Britain hundreds of millions of pounds a year on the balance of payments, and makes us less dependent on imported oil.

So when you use gas, you're helping Britain as well as helping yourself. But please use it carefully–it's much too good to waste.



HOW YOU CAN SAVE GAS AND MONEY

1 Use your central heating time clock sensibly
2 Turn your thermostat down a degree or two
3 Turn off unnecessary radiators
4 Insulate your roof space and hot water system
5 Have your gas equipment properly maintained and serviced
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BRITISH GAS

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VERSEAS

ord Greenhill opens Rhodesia alks as Government official corns immediate black rule

m Nicholas Ashford
isbury, Feb 26

Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian me Minister, met Lord enhill, the special British oy, this evening just as a m was breaking over Mr ith's residence where the s were being held.

Whether the climatic outst was an omen for their s it is too early to say, but d Greenhill did admit on his val early this morning that mission would be "short sharp", just as the storm ed out to be.

ord Greenhill and two aides, Thomas McNally, political iser to Mr Callaghan, the eign Secretary, and Mr ick Leaver, head of the desia Department at the eign and Commonwealth ce, landed in Salisbury just re 4 am, having been de- d for almost 18 hours in Palmas because of technical ible with their aircraft.

s a result, their itinerary to be altered and the hour- meeting with Mr Smith their only official appoint- today, although Lord enhill slipped away from hotel this morning to meet ate business, agricultural and ing company leaders.

he British team is to have s with Mr Joshua Nkomo, d of the internal faction of African National Council, orrow. They will have fur- talks with Mr Smith. It is ected Lord Greenhill will rn to London at the week-

efore seeing Lord Greenhill Smith attended a two-hour ary session of the consti- nal talks between his ernment and Mr Nkomo's It was the longest meet- the two sides have held since they first started talking last December, and would seem to indicate that they are struggling to reach some sort of compromise that would break the talks deadlock. There is to be a further plenary meeting on Monday.

Lord Greenhill's mission is primarily exploratory. It is to assess the gap between Mr Smith and Mr Nkomo and to find out whether the white Rhodesian Government is willing to accept a compromise solution that would lead to an early transfer of power to the country's black majority.

An answer to this question was given in a front page report in the *Rhodesia Herald* today which quoted a "Government official" as saying that the constitutional proposals by the ANC would produce an immediate black government. That was "completely out of the question".

I understand that the official quoted was Mr Jack Gaylard, secretary to the Cabinet and a key figure in the negotiations with the nationalists. Mr Gaylard, a man of right-wing political views, greeted Lord Greenhill when he arrived at Salisbury airport and later took part in the meetings with the ANC and with Lord Greenhill.

The newspaper quoted the official as saying that no guarantees had been given for the security of white Rhodesians should majority rule come, "nor is it considered likely that they would be given". Experience in other black African countries over the past 20 years had shown that paper guarantees were ineffective.

He added: "The conclusion to be drawn is inescapable. The only guarantee of future stability, prosperity and harmony in Rhodesia is to retain the reins of Government in responsible hands. This does not imply there will be no changes, but it does mean that a request for an immediate handover to black rule is out of the question."

It is not known whether Mr Gaylard consulted members of the Government before giving this statement to the *Rhodesia Herald*, but there can be no doubt that he was expressing the view of a majority of the ruling Rhodesian Front Party. His statement shows how little scope there is for Mr Smith to find a compromise

There is continued speculation over whether the British delegation will have informal talks with the rival faction of the ANC led by the self-exiled Bishop Abel Muzorewa. This morning about 600 Muzorewa supporters held a protest rally ourside the hotel in which the British team is staying, accusing Britain of meddling in the settlement issue.

The Muzorewa faction has denounced the British initiative to save the constitutional talks as "irrelevant" and has said it will not make contact with Lord Greenhill. However, it has not ruled out the possibility of talks if the British envoy makes the first move.

Peter Strafford writes from New York: Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, gave a warning yesterday that an "explosive situation" could develop in Rhodesia and Namibia (South-West Africa). The people of these territories were getting more and more impatient, and were taking a view that it was high time progress was made.

Dr Waldheim acknowledged that efforts were being made to reach a peaceful settlement of the issues in southern Africa.

Mr William Dykes (left) and Mr Charles Gallagher, the American diplomats released by Palestinians in Beirut, arrive in Athens yesterday.

Egypt to get £150m Saudi aid

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, Feb 26

Saudi Arabia has promised $300m (£150m) in urgent financial assistance to Egypt, burdened by huge debts and a serious budget deficit.

The pledge was made by King Khalid after five days of talks with President Sadat, who completed an official visit to Saudi Arabia today.

A joint communiqué, issued here and in Riyadh today, said the Saudi aid was extended to Egypt "to enable it to cope with the urgent requirements of its people".

Although the aid is far from the $4,000m Egypt needs to revive its economy, Egyptians welcomed the Saudi gesture as an example for other wealthy Gulf states to follow.

Mr Sadat's present tour takes in Oman, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain and Kuwait.

On the political level, the Egyptian-Saudi communiqué expressed full support for the Palestine Liberation Organization and said it should take part as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in all international conferences and meetings on the Middle East problem.

The two sides declared that reaching a just Middle East settlement was the collective responsibility of all Arab states.

"Arab states should also mobilize their potential to foil any attempts to freeze the Middle East crisis, continue to retain the initiative and strengthen Arab efforts against any aggressive acts which Israel may commit", the communiqué urged.

On Lebanon, the scene of recent bitter factional fighting, the two sides underlined the need to preserve the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. They also urged Lebanon to continue co-operation with the Palestinian resistance movement.

In connexion with the grave situation in Western Sahara, the communiqué called for an end to military clashes between Algeria and Morocco and suggested the opening of a dialogue between the two fraternal Arab states.

In Muscat, President Sadat's next stop, he told a British television journalist that no Arab state was ready to make a separate peace with Israel and that there were moves aimed at an overall settlement of the Middle East problem.

Unrepentant farewell by Mr Moynihan

From Peter Strafford
New York, Feb 26

Mr Daniel Moynihan, the outgoing American representative, today spoke out once again in defence of his attacking policies at the United Nations. America should make an issue of freedom, even if it discomfited others, he said.

"We are the party of revolution, because we stand for freedom", he declared. "Let us never stand less proud of that than this year"—a reference to the bicentennial of the American Declaration of Independence.

Mr Moynihan was speaking at a reception to say goodbye to his staff at the American mission before returning to Harvard University to resume teaching. He gives up his United Nations job at the end of the month, and Mr William Scranton, the former Governor of Pennsylvania, has been nominated by President Ford to succeed him.

Mr Moynihan recalled that when he had first taken up his United Nations appointment he had described the United States as the "party of liberty", and said that American spokesmen should be "feared for the truths they might tell". He said today that they had achieved that, and "none of us need be ashamed". It was "to the honour of this republic and its glory".

In recent years, he went on, there had been a tendency to divide the world into rich and poor. In that process the very fact of American success worked against the United States. Those countries which had been the most productive, the most successful, or just the most lucky had the most to explain.

Yet he argued that the economic situation of the world was better than it had been. The poor countries had always been poor, and were now less so. In general, countries all over the world were better off than they had been.

The world, he concluded, was not failing on economic development. But it was failing on the "progress of liberty." That was the issue on which "we win", and America should make its case on that regardless of reactions.

Mr Moynihan referred to the remarks made yesterday by Mr Ford when he nominated Mr Scranton as evidence that the policies he had followed while American representative "are succeeding, will succeed, and ought to succeed."

He made no comments today about his future plans, or about the possibility that he might try for election to the Senate from New York State. But the *New York Post* today carried a report that he had decided against the attempt because of opposition, and because he wanted to avoid a hard fight over the Democratic Party nomination.

Watergate trial judge leaves hospital

Washington, Feb 26.—Judge John Sirica, who presided over the Watergate cover-up trial, left hospital today to convalesce from a heart attack which he suffered on February 5.—Reuter.

Missile destroyer impales shark

Canberra, Feb 26.—A 13-foot tiger shark impaled itself on the bow of the Australian guided missile destroyer Hobart today and fouled the ship's sonar system.—Reuter.

Mr Ceausescu makes es 35-hour stand in the Kremlin

out EEC

n Edmund Stevens
cow, Feb 26

new type of unity in the mmunist block, "based on ect for the rights of every y freely to formulate its political line and strategy revolutionary tactics", was cated in the Kremlin y by President Nicolae sescu, the Romanian er.

eaking at the twenty-fifth ress of the Communist y in the Palace of Con- es, he said that Romania *pioned close ties of ship, cooperation and* rity with all Communist abour parties. He emphathe word "all" but tact did not include China by ; even so, he did not con- Maoism, as most of the t and other foreign ers at the congress have so far.

Ceausescu, saying that ew type of unity would mote the creative develop- of Marxism-Leninism", on to endorse the pre- ions for a conference of pean Communist parties, expressed the hope that a gathering would afford oductive and democratic exchange of opinions. He also called for cooperation with socialist and social democratic parties, which he included in "the new democratic forces of our epoch", as well as national liberation movements and anti-imperialist organizations.

Dr Alvaro Cunhal, the Portuguese Communist leader, recalled how he attended the twenty-fourth party congress in 1971 when the Portuguese party was illegal and there were no diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

He denied that his party had sought to impose minority rule *in his country*. The Communists sought merely to lead the people towards accomplishing the necessary revolutionary transformation. But he admitted that there were strong anti-Communist tendencies, including economic sabotage.

Foreign correspondents trying to cover the congress are handicapped by a scarcity of information and lack of personal access to the delegates. So far no texts of reports or speeches have been made available at the press centre in the Intourist Hotel in central Moscow, either in the original or in translation.

ne day Mr Johnson met s 'damned fine boys'

ued from page 1

y commander, was equal "can do" traditions. h the connivance of -General Richard Seitz, mmander, he decided that e would ever know the ence. They summoned a on from one of the divi- other brigades, "borrow- the 3rd Brigade's colours atting the men in combat s without insignia.

Force One, the President's t, arrived. Mr Johnson to the massed men (with k soldier arranged as fourth man in the front "I know that you will he cause of freedom as refathers served it. . . ." in the ranks, according *Journal*, the muttering : ". . . . We're all going re going back to 'Nam."

Johnson insisted to l Seitz on shaking hands ore than 100 of the men. consternation all round, esident pressed through ong, squeezing hands and ers with comments such d bless you, son . . . I'm of you, damned proud of He was not apparently of the bewilderment: ral Seitz, attempting to , thanked Mr Johnson tured: "It's been a long Mr President, and we put you way behind e."

is horror the President : "Schedule, hell, he goddamned schedule, here to see those boys off, and I'm going to see them off."

The charade then had to continue. The stunned troopers were marched into a waiting C-141 Starlifter air transport. The President followed, walking through the aircraft to say more farewells. The engines started, the President stood at attention, right hand over his heart in salute as the great aircraft took off.

The aircraft returned once the President had left, a spokesman for the *Journal* told me today. But General Blackburn waited seven years before disclosing perhaps the most hilarious "cover-up" of recent American history.

And the late President was apparently never aware of the truth of the affair. In his memoirs, *The Vantage Point*, Mr Johnson wrote: "These visits with brave men were among the most personally painful meetings of my presidency. . . . I told them I regretted more than they would ever know the necessity of ordering them to Vietnam."

Relating one conversation with a soldier who became a father that morning, Mr Johnson wrote: "It tore my heart out to send back to combat a man whose first son had just been born."

Today, the Army chief spokesman confirmed the story. With a veiled reference to General Blackburn, he said the "assistant divisional commander at that time" vouched for the facts, while the quotes, as admitted editorial embellishments, could not be commented upon.

With a little licence, it might be said that the spokesman was barely audible over the mirth.

rean rebels ee Briton

, Feb 26.—A spokesman Eritrean Liberation uerrillas said today that errillas in north-east had decided to cease ing foreigners, and soon release Mr Basil -Taylor, the British in Asmara, and two ns, Mr Steve Campbell Jim Harrell, who were last July.—Reuter.

Lenin replaces Mrs Thatcher

Moscow, Feb 26.—A poster portraying Mrs Thatcher as a hideous witch was today removed from display in a window of a Moscow library. It was replaced with one of Lenin.

An official said the display was changed every week. "These posters had already been there longer than usual."—Reuter.

If you're looking for a low tar cigarette surely it makes sense to smoke Silk Cut.

A range of prices: SILK CUT Number 3, 34p. Number 1, 39p. Regular 42½p. King Size 47p and International 52p.

LOW TAR As defined by H.M. Government
EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

OVERSEAS

Boston has its nose in the air and parades its aloofness as the circus trundles into town

From Patrick Brogan
Boston, Feb 26

The circus has come to town, and Boston has put on its metropolitan and world-weary face in an attempt to delude visitors into believing that it does not care about such matters. Manchester, New Hampshire, was all agog when the show was in town, enjoying every second of national attention, revelling in the spotlight.

Massachusetts has put its nose in the air, ignoring press and politicians, but keeping a weather eye open for television, with its better profile turned to the cameras. It marked Senator Birch Bayh's arrival in Boston by giving every car in his procession a parking ticket when they stopped yesterday outside a Boston hotel for a rally.

All this is illusion, of course. Even Boston, even Cambridge (a tedious suburb with a college and pretensions), are delighted at the presence of eight declared Democratic candidates and two Republicans fighting for their votes.

The five Democratic performers in New Hampshire who moved here were Mr Jimmy Carter, who won the cup with his high wire act; Mr Morris Udall, who came second with his worthy, competent and rather dull juggling act; Mr Birch Bayh, who was last seen promising the cameras that he was really the star, although he finished a bad third.

Mr Fred Harris, the most engaging of tumblers, the poor man's candidate who said that he lost "because the little man couldn't reach the levers of the voting machines"; and Mr Sargent Shriver, the lion tamer who has yet to find an animal which will pay any attention to him.

They have been joined by two old, experienced and formidable performers, Senator Henry Jackson, known as "Scoop", and Governor George Wallace, whose act is running to the right in a wheelchair.

Mr Milton Shapp, Governor of Pennsylvania, has also joined the circus. He is very small and his role is to provide a little light relief.

US Presidential Elections 1976

The deep thinkers of press and television have been conducting polls which show that the overwhelming majority of people in Massachusetts believe that economic issues are at the heart of the battle.

The eight experienced Democratic politicians unanimously derived these findings and concentrate on the ABC issues, abortion, busing, crime, and the indefinable qualities of leadership and character.

The men to watch are Mr Jimmy Carter and Governor Wallace. In the early days of the campaign until late last year, Mr Carter was given the role of giant killer—in the South.

He was to be offered up to the voters in Florida and later southern primaries as an attractive conservative alternative to Governor Wallace. It was hoped that he would knock Mr Wallace out of the race and then gracefully make way for wiser and more experienced northerners, such as Senator Jackson or perhaps Senator Humphrey.

Things have not quite worked like that and the northerners now rather hope that Governor Wallace will eliminate Mr Carter here and in Florida on March 9. Mr Wallace can win neither the nomination nor the election, but Mr Carter can do both, although the odds are still against him, and in a "stop Carter" movement, any help from the impossible Mr Wallace is to be welcomed.

Massachusetts was the only state of the Union to vote Democratic in 1972. It is a state with a large, liberal, academic community and a large industrial working class.

Since then, however, the busing and to a lesser extent the abortion issues have split the two elements of the Democratic electorate, and if the vote was taken again today, Watergate forgotten, Mr Nixon would probably defeat Senator McGovern easily.

The bitterness of the Boston working classes against the liberal establishment which is believed to be forcing busing upon them, is very widespread and very dangerous for Democratic candidates.

Furthermore, the full programme of busing school children to achieve racial integration goes into effect only in the autumn, just in time for the presidential election. Everyone knows about it, of course, whether their children have yet been bused or are to be bused in September, and there are thousands of votes to be won on the issue.

Senator Jackson runs full page advertisements in the newspapers and saturates the air waves with commercials proclaiming that he is the only antibusing candidate with a solution. He has a Bill before the Senate limiting judges' powers to order busing.

He points out, correctly, that Governor Wallace advocates a negative, racist policy which cannot work, and that the other candidates waffle. Mr Carter claims that he, too, has a plan, but his campaign so far has been based on hard work and winning smiles, and he has avoided taking strong positions on anything. His solution to the busing issue lacks the attractive simplicity of his conservative rival.

Senator Jackson, recognizing that he could not win the liberal sweepstakes against the likes of Mr Udall or Mr Fred Harris, has concentrated on busing, taking time off occasionally to hammer away at economic issues on which he is far better equipped than the others to produce convincing-sounding answers.

Meanwhile, the liberals are fighting it out among themselves, with Mr Udall in the lead and Senators Kennedy and Humphrey in the wings. Americans have always liked three-ring circuses, and the Democrats are providing a spectacular specimen.

Japanese to subpoena Americans in bribes case

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Feb 26

In an unprecedented step in 86 years of Japanese parliamentary history the Government decided today to subpoena three foreign nationals to appear before the Diet's budgetary committee as witnesses next week, when the panel is due to start a fresh investigation into the Lockheed bribery scandal.

All three of the witnesses are American citizens, and the Japanese Government indicated today that the subpoenas will be served through diplomatic channels if it does not receive objections from the United States Government.

Two of the proposed witnesses, Mr A. C. Kotchian, a former vice-chairman of the Lockheed Corporation, and Mr Shig Katayama, a businessman who is alleged to have helped Lockheed to channel bribes to politicians, are resident in the United States and are not legally bound by foreign subpoenas.

The Government recognizes that it does not have the power to force Mr Kotchian and Mr Katayama to travel to Japan, but officials said they hoped the two would appear as voluntary witnesses. The third American citizen, Mr Toshiyoshi Oni, Lockheed's Asian representative, is resident in Tokyo and, under Japanese law, is liable to respond to the subpoena.

The decision to reopen parliamentary investigations into the Lockheed scandal was taken today amidst uproar in the Diet as the opposition alleged that the ruling party is attempting to cover up the case in order to protect corrupt politicians and officials within its ranks.

After a heated debate the Government decided to summon another nine witnesses, including the three Americans, to appear before the budgetary committee's inquiry.

Tonight, the Japanese Government sent orders to its embassy in Washington to establish whether the State Department would approve of American citizens appearing before the Japanese parliamentary committee.

An official said that although Mr Oni, an American citizen of Japanese origin, is resident in Tokyo and bound by Japanese law, the request for the State Department's approval had been sent to observe diplomatic courtesies.

Among the other key figures who are expected to receive subpoenas within 48 hours are Mr Tetsuo Oba, a former president of All Nippon Airways, who resigned shortly before the airline selected the Lockheed TriStar, Mr Tokuji Wakasa, the present president of the airline, and Mr Yoshio Kodama, who is alleged to have passed on $7m (£3.5m) in bribes to officials and politicians.

Two former witnesses who testified before a parliamentary commission of inquiry earlier this month are to appear before the budgetary committee again. They are Mr Toshiharu Okubo and Mr Hiroshi Itoh, former executives of the Marubeni Corporation, who allegedly signed coded receipts for Lockheed bribe money.

Much to the anger of the opposition, it appears that only four of the nine witnesses will appear before the committee next week. Doctors testified in Parliament today that Mr Kodama, the key witness, is not medically fit to appear in the Diet.

Italy's child of privilege who became a people's politician

"One knows more about the English Royal Family than about the Agnellis. The Queen has gossiping servants. The Agnellis never", complained an Italian critic recently. He was reviewing *We always wore sailor suits*, the autobiography of Susanna Agnelli, granddaughter of the founder of Fiat, and sister of its current chairman Gianni, which was published in England yesterday.

His disappointment is understandable. In this extremely evocative, briskly written and sometimes pleasingly malicious account of the years of fascism in Italy, you learn little gossip or scandal about the Agnellis, who are to modern Turin something of what the Sforzas and Medicis were to 15th century Florence. And yet the style of the book, and its underlying assumptions of privilege, say a good deal about the authority and somewhat patrician manner of what is possibly the most influential single family in Italy. (Enormous as well as influential: there are 110 cousins on the Agnelli family tree.)

We always wore sailor suits has sold over 150,000 copies in Italy, and won the literary Premio Scanno. Its success—almost unprecedented in Italy with a book of this kind—is due as much to the fact that remarkably few books as lucid and readable as this have been written about fascist Italy, as to genuine curiosity about the Agnelli family. Susanna Agnelli was born in 1922, the year that Mussolini became Italy's dictator. She starts her story with scenes from a rich and strict childhood, when she and her brothers and sisters were dressed in sailor suits, blue in winter, white in summer, cosseted and regimented by a series of governesses, nursemaids and servants. (An American reviewer somewhat unkindly compared it to *Upstairs, Downstairs*.) She ends the book in 1945, with the end of the war, Mussolini's death and her marriage.

In between are encounters and exchanges with fascists and partisans, soldiers and refugees, recounted in a curiously innocent political tone. "My idea then of fascism", she says at one point early on in the book, "is of something inevitable and ludicrous but we don't hear much talk about it." Her mother goes to see Mussolini to ask him to help her; she herself becomes a nurse on a hospital ship and falls in love with Raimondo, close friend of Count Ciano, Mussolini's son-in-law. Her marriage in 1945 is to Urbano Rattazzi, a cavalry officer who served with the fascists. There is no political condemnation, no obvious ideological stance. She simply knew these people, just as she did the partisans later on, and the Allied soldiers when they took over the Agnelli house in Rome, and she describes them all, with the same humour and affection and slight mockery. There are funny moments, and disasters, all told at the same pace and with the same lack of criticism. What matters is behaviour, personal probity.

Scant concern with political ideology in favour of extreme fairness, good sense and good manners is as characteristic of her today. Twelve years ago Susanna Agnelli went to live at Porto Santo Stefano, a small town on the coast 100 miles north of Rome. She grew increasingly impatient with the ineptness of local politicians, and in 1970 was elected councillor, standing as an independent, but on a Republican ticket. Eighteen months ago she was made mayor, and was reelected with a large majority in the local elections last June. "I was chosen because the people see me working very hard, every day", she says. "They are not used to seeing politicians do things for them."

Certainly she has immense energy, great charm, and ruthlessness she does not hesitate to use. Under her determined onslaught the local schools are getting organized, the sewage is being dealt with, a surgery has been completed, and a library built. During a forest fire last summer she hired—in the teeth of considerable local opposition—a French fire-fighting aircraft that arrived in time to check the fire.

Most remarkable, perhaps, she has put a stop to the illegal building of holiday villas (Santo Stefano has a summer population of 100,000, a winter one of 15,000) along the protected coast line. Her method is simple. If an unscrupulous builder puts up the house regardless of permits, she orders it to be pulled down; in some circumstances she will accept twice the value of the finished house as a fine to pay into the local coffers. It would be very hard indeed to imagine her being bribed.

She stands for no rudeness, no incompetence. She sets the pace herself, working long hours in the town hall, concerning herself with the smallest details of personal problems, and travelling up and down to Rome to attend to business in the nurses teaching school she has built up, in a way almost unique in Italian local politics. Such is her impact that several Italian politicians are now wondering whether her much-publicized activities as mayor may not inspire more women to enter politics. Only 200 out of It mayors are women.

Susanna Agnelli is 53, a t looking, self-assured woman wit greying hair. She drives around wearing jeans, at great speed, i Jeep, sometimes accompanied by guard forced on her after the ki started spreading last year. S perfect English, learnt from a governess. *We always wore s* was in fact written in English, rewritten by her in Italian. It 40 days to write, which says about her energy. Its dry, plain been much praised by the Itali Englishness. She is divorced fro Rattazzi, with whom she lived fo after the war on a cattle Argentina, and has six child between 19 and 29. She is, as expect, outspoken about her vi caused a considerable stir when to Vietnam for the Red Cross in wrote an article saying the Uni would lose the war.

At the moment Susanna Agne immediate plans for national pol she is a well-known figure, wi and connexions all over Italy, hardly be surprising if her o mination and the undoubted st has made of local politics soone pushed her to the front. She w formidable figure if she got there *We always wore sailor suits*, b Agnelli, published by Weide Nicolson, £4.50.

Caroline Moo

Spanish presence in Sahara ends

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Feb 26

A depleted Jemma (Sahara National Assembly) today approved Moroccan and Mauretanian annexation of Western Sahara as Spain, which has controlled the territory for the [illegible] officials 48 hours ahead of schedule.

The Spanish news agency Pyresa said in Madrid: "As of today the real conflict in the Sahara will begin, and Spain does not want to stay even one day longer."

The number of representatives who voted in the Jemma to endorse the Madrid Pact was not immediately known. About half the members had previously fled into the desert or to Algeria to join nationalist guerrillas of the Polisario (Popular Front for Liberation of Saharan Territories). It is believed few of the those members accepted Moroccan safe conduct promises to return to capital of Aaiún for today's crucial vote.

Although Spain made no official statement after the voting, it was accepted here that the Spanish Government did not formally recognize today's decision as the will of the Saharan people. The Government's position is that any decision on the future of western Sahara made by the Jemma without the presence of a United Nations observer could not be considered valid.

However, Dr Waldheim, secretary-general of the United Nations had turned down a Moroccan request to send an observer, saying that Spain was the responsible decolonizing power.

Last autumn, when General Franco was dying, Spain overlooked her repeated promises to hold a referendum in Western Sahara and washed her hands of the mineral-rich territory by entering into the three-nation Madrid Pact, which in effect guaranteed the turnover of the thinly-populated territory to Morocco and Mauretania, its neighbours to north and south. The pact established a three-power caretaker administration which was to have ended its task tomorrow. However, Spain speeded up her departure.

This afternoon's meeting of the Jemma was an extraordinary one, presided over by Jatri Uld Said Uld Yamani, a collaborator with General Franc's regime who late last year fled to Morocco to declare his fealty to King Hassan.

The assembly approved the Madrid Pact and backed plans for the takeover of the territory.

Victoria Brittain writes from Algier: Neither Algeria nor the Polisario movement recognizes the Spanish handover to Morocco and Mauretania of the Western Sahara in El Aaiun today. They consider it illegal.

The meeting of the Jemma was "a masquerade by a handful of traitors", a Polisario spokesman said here today.

The Jemma is no longer recognized by the Algerians or Polisario, which claims that more than 67 of its 101 former members are with the Polisario forces fighting in the desert.

According to Polisario and the official Algerian press, the real Jemma dissolved itself last November at a meeting in the southern Saharan town of Guelta.

West backs loser, page 14

In brief

Double loss for Dr Kissinger

Washington, Feb 26.—Mr Robert Ingersoll, deputy Secretary of State, is to resign to return to private business. Taken together with the already announced departure of Mr Joseph Sisco in July, this means that the State Department headed by Dr Kissinger is losing its number two and three officers.

Dangerous waters

The Defence Ministry in London said yesterday that the Icelandic gunboat Tyr had twice tried "dangerously and desperately" to out-manoeuvre the British frigate Scylla off the coast of Iceland in an attempt to cut the trawl trawler Benella's warps.

Death sentence appeal

British left-wing MPs have written to Mr Patrick John, the Premier of the British-associated state of Dominica, asking for mercy for a member of a black militant group on the island under sentence of death for murdering an American tourist.

Torture report delay

Geneva, Feb 26.—Mr Nigel Rodley, of Amnesty International has complained that a 1974 report about arrests and torture in Brazil, has not yet been discussed by the United Nations human rights commission.

Words take flight

Airmail letter and parcel services to Nigeria, disrupted by the recent attempted coup, have been resumed after the reopening of Lagos airport.

Imposed rule goes on

Rawalpindi, Feb 26.—A joint sitting of the two houses of the Pakistan Parliament has extended the duration of presidential rule in the province of Baluchistan until the end of April.

Concorde fully booked on Bahrain flight

Bahrain, Feb 26.—A British Airways Concorde took off here for London today with a full load of fare paying passengers for the first time since supersonic service was inaugurated on this run on January 21.

The full booking of seats was seen to indicate that more people wanted to fly at twice the speed of sound now that steady Concorde service had been provided for more than a month.

Meanwhile, it was revealed in Washington that British Airways and Air France plan to start daily Concorde flights to New York and Washington on April 10. The plan was disclosed in a document filed in the Court of Appeals in Washington, where environmentalists are challenging a ruling by Mr William Coleman, the Transportation Secretary, in favour of Concorde.—Agence France-Presse and UPI.

Wife of Chairman Mao behind anti-Teng drive

From David Bonavia
Peking

Evidence that Mrs Chiang Ching, the wife of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, is playing a leading role in the present campaign against Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, the Deputy Prime Minister, surfaced today in the Chinese press.

The *People's Daily* gave prominence to a report on the village of Hsiao Chin Chang, near Tientsin, in which Mrs Chiang Ching is known to have taken a strong personal interest because of its emphasis on political night schools and on the revolutionary ballet and opera which she has sponsored for the past decade.

The article accused "unrepentant capitalist roaders within the party"—a euphemism for Mr Teng and his faction—of denigrating Hsiao Chin Chuang village and its experience. They were said to have claimed that the village was not learning the lessons of Tachai, the production brigade in north-west China which is supposed to be a national model, and that it was being set up as a rival one.

The "capitalist roaders" were also alleged to have said that the village received state subsidies, which was hotly denied. It is considered shameful in China for a leading agricultural unit to depend on government funds for development.

Another grievance of the village's radical activists was that the "capitalist roaders" wanted their political night school to pay more attention to eliminating illiteracy rather than to ideology.

Mr Nixon flies to South China city

Peking, Feb 26.—Mr Nixon, the former President, today left Peking for South China. He flew to Kweilin, where he spent the afternoon sightseeing.—Reuter.

Pressure on Mr Whitlam to resign

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, Feb 26

Pressure is continuing to mount on Mr Gough Whitlam to resign as Opposition leader over an alleged money offer from the Iraq Government but he remained firm today in his intention to stay.

Mr William Hayden, the former Treasurer, has emerged as a strong favourite for the leadership of the Australian Labour Party whose federal executive meets next week. But Mr Hayden said today that he knew of no reason why he should reconsider his stand, taken after the general election, when he refused to seek the leadership or deputy leadership.

Mr Whitlam said today that he was confident of remaining in office until the end of his term.

The dispute is over allegations that Mr Whitlam talked with two Iraqi representatives at a Sydney flat on December 10 about a £250,000 gift to Labour Party campaign funds. Mr Whitlam has said he met the men but denies discussing any such deal.

Mr Fraser, the Prime Minister, said today that Mr Whitlam had acted strangely in meeting unknown men three days before the election. Asked if he would have found time to have done the same thing at the time, Mr Fraser replied: "It would seem to indicate a rather unusual order of priorities, especially if I had not met the gentlemen before."

Mr Peacock, the Foreign Minister, was asked in Parliament if Mr Henry Fischer, the man who met the two Iraqi visitors, was the former publisher and editor of the *Australian International News Review*.

Mr Qahtan Lufti Ali, the Iraq Ambassador to Australia, denied that his Government had been involved in a financial deal with the Labour Party.

Canberra, Feb 26.—Mr Whitlam issued a writ in the Supreme Court in Canberra today claiming $A500,000 (about £310,000) in damages plus costs from Nationwide News Ltd, the publishers of *The Australian*, the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* and the Sydney *Daily Mirror*, for alleged defamation and/or injurious falsehood.

The writ mentioned an article in *The Australian* yesterday headlined: "Arabs in secret deals to pay ALP (Australian Labour Party) election bills"; one in the *Daily Telegraph*: "Secret Arab money for ALP", and one in the *Daily Mirror*: "This is what caused blow up".

What equality will mean for the women at West Point

In July the United States military academy at West Point will inaugurate the greatest change it has ever made in its long and honourable tradition of training young men to be officers in the United States Army. One hundred women will be among the class of 1980 swearing to uphold the principles of "honour, duty, country".

West Point does not intend to allow this momentous change, signed into law by President Ford last October to alter in any way the mission, character and principles it has cherished almost unaltered since 1802. Virtually no change will be made. Women will be treated exactly as men, receiving the same training and education, living in the same quarters, subject to the same rules and duties and obliged to follow the same rigorous athletics programme. The only concession will be that in the physical aptitude test the flexed arm hang from a bar will be substituted for pull-ups (physiologically almost impossible for women), and women will do judo and karate instead of boxing and wrestling. The most radical demands for equality of treatment could not have been more fully met.

Planning for women began two years ago. West Point fought vigorously against their admission, but foresaw the inevitable, and decided to accept it with good grace.

An athletics research project is now testing the physical capabilities of women volunteers—a field in which little research seems to be available. Films and laboratory instruments measure women running with heavy equipment, performing on route marches, managing the ceremonial drill. Instructors want to know whether women can cope with a daily five mile march. Already they have found a woman cannot manage the presentation of arms using the M14 rifle: her hand is too small to reach across to lock the bolt catch while sliding down the operating rod.

Women will take part in all summer military training, including aggressive and defensive training, jungle warfare, bayonet drill and parachuting. At present army policy forbids the assignment of women to combat units, but West Point believes women officers must experience the stresses of warfare if only in training. In any case, army policy might change.

The women will not be segregated but scattered throughout the 12 academy battalions. The only concession to any need for supportive female company will be the clustering of groups of about eight women in adjacent rooms in living quarters. Some minor rebuilding has added women's latrines and changing rooms.

Much of the preparation is training next year's third, second, and first year, who run day-to-day life at the academy, to react normally to the women. For everyone the first two months, indeed the first day, at West Point are traumatic. The routine is "beast barracks" is deliberately tiring, demanding and frustrating. It moulds school leavers into soldiers, implanting in them attitudes they never forget. But in the process it breaks some (about 35 per cent drop out) and puts stress on everyone. Many of the women, West Point admits, may break down and cry. But this will not matter. Crying will be treated as a natural stress reaction, just as men slamming doors and clenching their fists.

Inevitably sex has been discussed exhaustively. Would it matter if women cadets fell in love? W thinks not. Male cadets who h ties, brothers, for example, friends, have always managed familiarity for appropriate never allowing personal links on professional relationships. W is confident the same will be the women. Of course there will holding hands will not be all "dating" will be strictly define any case the class of 1980 will from coeducational schools: it i present intake who may need their attitudes.

Already 750 women have app year's applications among men reached record levels. Any back the anti-military mood caused b has dissipated surprisingly quic of the attraction, of course, at rising tuition fees in universiti West Point offers a free univer tion leading to a degree. The on five years' subsequent military

Vietnam has left its marks: t disobeying unjust orders is pr ticularly controversial. But the granite tradition, solid conser academic and moral outlook a tion—however outdated—as route to the top have proved for Indochina to do more tha temporary dip in qualified ap Those women who will parade i designed full-dress grey will bec of the mystique that has made t on the River Hudson virtually u by politicians, reformers and de

Michael

Tale of the poor British potato

One of my local greengrocers not only sells Egyptian potatoes, he also displays a few with the ends cut off to show their immaculate insides. His experience of the English crop must have been the same as mine and that of many other shoppers.

The home-grown tubers seem to be of unusually low quality, as well as exceptionally expensive. My household managed to resist buying potatoes this year until last week, when it yielded to the charms of a three-pound bag marked, English, 34p. They looked all right from the outside but under the skin they were all shot through with black marks that made many quite useless and reduced the others to mean and expensive slivers.

The Potato Marketing Board admitted for the first time yesterday that the quality of home-grown potatoes now on sale was low. It went so far as to say: "One has had the odd tuber that one has had to peel a little harder than one would like".

Mr Bob Meredith, deputy head of the board's research and development department, explained: "There is a seasonal pattern usually associated with a dry season in which one tends to get a tuber which is more prone to bruising".

The growing potato, he said, acquires vascular rings immediately below the skin similar to the rings that indicate the age of trees. In the potato the rings form a particularly tender area which is easily damaged if the sacks of tubers are not treated gently. If a potato cost as much as an egg, Mr Meredith said, it would be given the respect it deserved.

If a potato was dropped damage might be wholly internal and undetectable from the outside. "It's a breakdown of the enzymes in the cells and there is really nothing you can do about it."

Food companies that make crisps and instant mash are powerful enough to demand strict vetting of the crops they buy. They often insist on sampling loads for quality and rejecting those which are not up to scratch.

Shoppers have no such muscle power and do not expect greengrocers to cut their potatoes before they buy. If that is acceptable it is made much less so by the fact that the home market in potatoes is controlled as rigidly as those for any foods. In normal years exports are excluded for much of the year and imports subjected to strict rules in order to protect the home grower.

Potatoes are not yet part of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EEC so that each member state is allowed to make its own rules for them. The Bri lobby opposes the type of u trade that would be entailed munity regime for marketing But if British growers and d cannot guarantee some level they should not expect to be against supplies from outside give British shoppers better v

The British potato lobby de controlled market on the groun serves consumers well by keep stable and in normal seasons steady and adequate supplies. no evidence that it balances siderations against variations between domestic and foreign

Some eggs will cost more The Goldenlay marketing consor yesterday that shoppers had be expenditure on eggs by buyin ones. Medium and small grad account for less than an eighth would therefore rise by 2p a d week while the rest would be s

The Department of Prices sumer Protection predicted early on tomatoes, some green veget cucumbers, but not on fish.

Hugh

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ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area

OPERA AND BALLET

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE SEASON 1976 Evenings 8.0. Mat. Thurs. Sat. 3.0
ROCK HUDSON JULIET PROWSE
"DO I DO!"
Last 3 weeks. Tel. James 9611.

PICCADILLY. 437 4506. Previews from March 12 at 7.30. First Night March 23 at 7. BROADWAY'S LATEST HIT JEROME KERN'S MUSICAL
VERY GOOD EDDIE
"IT TAKES OFF, IT FLIES, I REALLY LOVED IT" N. Y. Times.

QUEEN'S. 01-734 1166. Evenings 8.0. Mat. Thurs. 3.0, Sat. 5.30 & 8.50. Winner of all the surveys for BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR
Michael GAMBON in Simon GRAY'S
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Directed by Harold PINTER

REGENT. 388 2707. Evenings 8.30. Fri., Sat. 7.0 & 9.15
2nd YEAR OF SENSATIONAL STAGE SHOW OF THE SEVENTIES
LET MY PEOPLE COME
AN ADULT MUSICAL
"Never a dull moment."—E. News
100 tickets held for sale at door.

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THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA '76

ROUND HOUSE, 267 2564. Last Perfs. Tonight 8. Thur. 5 & 8.30 RSC present
THE IK
directed by Peter Brook
ROUND HOUSE "DOWNSTAIRS"
HAMLET Today, Tue., Wed., 7.30. Thur. 7.30. MAN IS MAN Mon. 7.30.

ROYAL COURT. 730 1745
Evgs. at 8. Sats 5 & 8.30.
James Bolam, Jane Asher & Stephen Moore in Christopher Hampton's
TREATS
"SENSATIONAL."—Sun. Times.
"VERY FUNNY."—Observer.

ST MARTIN'S. 836 1443. Evgs. 8. Mats. Tues. 2.45. Sats. 5 & 8
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
WORLD'S LONGEST EVER RUN
24TH YEAR

SAVOY. 836 8888. Evenings at 8. Mats. Wed at 3.30 & Sat. at 5. Barbara MULLEN and Derek BOND in AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
MURDER AT THE VICARAGE

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE. 836 6596
Tonight 7.30, tomor. 3.0 & 7.30
ARTHUR LOWE
JOHN LE MESURIER, CLIVE DUNN in
DAD'S ARMY
Last Week—Must end Tomorrow.

SHAW THEATRE. 01-388 1394. Last 3 weeks. Evenings 7.30
J. P. DONLEAVY'S
THE GINGER MAN

STRAND. 836 2660. Evgs. 8.0 Mats. Thur. 3.0. Sat. 5.30 & 8.30
Doris Hare McDonald Hobley
Arthur Howard Barry McGinn
NO SEX, PLEASE
WE'RE BRITISH
Directed by Allan Davis
LONDON'S LONGEST LAUGH 5th Year

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD, E.15 01-534 0310. Evgs. at 8.0
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VAUDEVILLE. 836 9988. Evgs. 8. Mats. Tues. 2.45. Sats. 5 & 8.
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"IS FAIR AND AWAY THE BEST THRILLER IN TOWN." Punch.

VICTORIA PALACE. 834 1317. Last week. Tat. 8.0, tmr. 6.0 & 8.45.
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Special reductions & concessions.

WEMBLEY EMPIRE POOL 902 1234
LAST PERFORMANCES
Tonight 7.45. Tomorrow 2, 5 & 8.
MUSICAL SPECTACULAR ON ICE
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Children and O.A.P.s half-price tonight. Ample parking. Pay at doors.

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Evenings 8.0. Sat. 6.45, 9.0.
PAUL RAYMOND presents
Britain's No. 1 Sex Symbol
FIONA RICHMOND in
COME INTO MY BED

WINDMILL THEATRE. 437 6312
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LET'S GET LAID
Twice nightly at 7.0 & 9.0.
2nd SENSATIONAL YEAR.

WYNDHAMS. 836 3028. Evgs. at 8. Sats. 5 & 8.15. Mats. Wed. at 3.
JIMMY JEWEL in
COMEDIANS
By Trevor Griffiths. "The most exciting play in London."—S. Times. Transfer from The Old Vic.

YOUNG VIC (by Old Vic). 928 6363. Tot. 8. Sat. 5 & 8.15. AS YOU LIKE IT. Mmr. 8: OTHELLO. 8op.

YOUNG VIC STUDIO 928 6363. Bower Prods. in PHOENIX TOO FREQUENT/A SLIGHT ACCIDENT. Mon.-Fri. 8. Sat. 3 & 8.15. Young Vic in STAMP & DELIVER (for 5-8 yrs.). Tdy. 2. Sat. at 11.

TALK OF THE TOWN. 01-734 5051. From 8.15. Dng. & Dncg. At 9.30: New Revue, SWEET TEMPTATION and at 11 p.m. PETERS AND LEE
Opening Monday next:
LENA MARTELL

CINEMAS

ABC 1 & 2, Shaftesbury Ave. 836 8861. Sep. perfs. ALL SEATS BKBLE.
1 BARRY LYNDON (A). Wk. & Sun. Perfs. 7.15. Late show Sat. 11.35.
2 THE SUNSHINE BOYS (A). Wk. & Sun. 2.00, 5.30, 8.30.

ACADEMY ONE. 437 2981. Joan Micklin Silver's HESTER STREET (U). Progs. 1.45, 4.00, 6.15, 8.35.

ACADEMY TWO. 437 5129. Lst. 6 dys. SEVEN SAMURI (X). Full version. Progs. 12.30, 4.00, 7.40.

ACADEMY THREE. 437 8819. Marcel Carné's LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS (A). Show times 4.45, 8.0.

COLUMBIA, Shaftesbury Ave. 734 5414. THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING (A). Cont. progs. Wk. 3.10, 5.00, 7.55. Sun. 3.40, 5.00, 7.55. Late show Sat. 11.15.

CURZON, Curzon St., W.1. 499 3737. BURT LANCASTER in Visconti's CONVERSATION PIECE (X). Film at 3.0 (not Sun.), 4.10, 6.20, 8.35. Late show Saturday at 11 p.m.

DOMINION, Tott. Ct. Rd. (580 9562) THE KILLER ELITE (X). Cont. progs. 1.10 (not Sun.), 3.20, 5.45, 8.15. Late show Sat. 11.15. Last 3 days.

EMPIRE, Leicester Square. 437 1234. HUSTLE (X). Progs. Daily, 2.30, 5.30, 8.30. Late Show Fri. & Sat. 11.30 p.m. Sep. perfs. All seats bookable. No phone bookings.

GATE CINEMA, Nott. Hill. 727 5750. Mizoguchi's SANSHO DAYU (A). 1.55, 3.35, 5.20, 9; & SPACE PLACE (U). 1, 6.45, 8.30.

PERFORMANCE (X) & REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE (X). 11.15.

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252). Robert Mitchum, Charlotte Rampling, FAREWELL, MY LOVELY (AA). Cont. progs. Wk. 1.05, 3.30, 5.55, 8.25. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.45. Circle seats may be booked.

ODEON HAYMARKET. (930 2738/2771). Dustin Hoffman "LENNY" (X). Sep. progs. Wk. 2.00, 5.15, 8.30. Sun. 4.30, 8.30. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.45. All seats may be booked.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE. (930 6111). Jack Nicholson in ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST (X). Cont. progs. 12.10 (not Sun.), 2.40, 5.25, 8.10. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.45.

ODEON MARBLE ARCH. (723 2011/2). GREAT EXPECTATIONS (U). Sep. progs. Wk. 12.45, 4.15, 8.00. Sun. 4.15, 8.00. All seats may be booked.

ODEON ST. MARTIN'S LANE—HOME OF DISNEY MOVIES—THE JUNGLE BOOK (U). For info. 240 0071. Box office 836 0691. Sep. progs. Wk. 2.30, 5.45, 8.45. Feature 3.05, 6.30, 9.30. Sat. progs. 11.15 am. 2.30, 5.45, 8.45. Sun. progs. 2.45, 5.35, 8.45. Bkble. Last 2 weeks.

PARIS PULLMAN, Sth. Ken. 373 5898. Herzog's ENIGMA OF KASPAR HAUSER (A). Pgs. 4.20, 6.30, 8.40. Ends March 10.

PHOENIX, opp. East Finchley Station. 883 2253. ANKUR—THE SEEDLING (AA). Progs. 4.00, 6.15, 8.35.

PLAZA 1 & 2, Regent St., S.W.1. 839 6494. Sep. Perfs. All seats bookable for eve. perfs. Box Office 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (not Suns.). No phone bookings.
1. JAWS (A). Daily: 1st perf. 1.00; 2nd perf. 3.30; 3rd perf. 6.00; 4th perf. 8.30. Late night show Fri. & Sat. 11.15.
2. JAWS (A). Daily: 1st perf. 3.00; 2nd perf. 5.30; 3rd perf. 8.0.

PRINCE CHARLES, Leic. Sq. 437 8181. 2nd Great Year
EMMANUELLE (X)
Sep. prfs. dly. (inc. Sun.), 2.45, 5.15, 9.0. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.45. Seats bkble. Lic. Bar.

RITZ, Leicester Sq. 437 1234. A WINDOW TO THE SKY (A). Progs. daily 2.00, 4.10, 6.25, 8.40. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.50.

SCENE 1, 2, 3, 4. Lstr. Sq. (Wardour St.). 439 4470.

SCENE 1. Cont. Dly. 12.30. Lte. show. Fri. & Sat. 11.45. Ken Russell's LISZTOMANIA (X). Progs. 12.30, 2.45, 5.00, 7.05, 9.25. Lte. show Fri. & Sat. 11.45.

SCENE 2. 2nd YEAR. THE EXORCIST (X). Directed by William Friedkin. Sep. perfs. Dly. 1.30, 3.00, 6.15, 9.00. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.30.

SCENE 3. 2nd YEAR. THE TOWERING INFERNO (A). Sep. perfs. Dly. 2.00, 5.20, 8.40. Lte. show Fri. & Sat. 11.45.

SCENE 4. Cont. Dly. 1.00. Late show Fri. & Sat. 12.00. Ken Russell's TOMMY (AA). Progs. 1.00, 3.45, 6.30, 9.15. Late show Fri. & Sat. 12.00.

WARNER WEST END
Leicester Square. Tel.: 439 0791.
1 HOUSE OF MORTAL SIN (X). Sep. progs. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30. Late show Sat. 11.00 p.m.
2 THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER (AA). Sep. progs. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30. Late show Sat. 11.0 p.m.
3 OPERATION DAYBREAK (AA). Sep. progs. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30. Late show Sat. 11.00 p.m.
4 AL PACINO in DOG DAY AFTERNOON (X). Cont. progs. 2.15, 5.00, 7.50. Late show Sat. 11.00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

ST. JAMES'S ANTIQUES FAIR, Piccadilly Hotel, Piccadilly, W1. Last day today, 11 am to 7pm.

ART EXHIBITIONS

AUSTRALIA HOUSE, Strand, WC2. JOHN PETER RUSSELL: The Lost Impressionist" (1858-1930). Exhibition of Paintings. Until Feb. 28. Mon.-Sat. 10-5. Sun. 2-5.

BELGRAVE GALLERY
17 Motcomb Street, S.W.1. 233 0066
ALISON DEBENHAM (1903-1967) Open Mon.-Fri. 10-6.

BOADICEA, 30 Beauchamp Place, S.W.1. ANTHONY CROSS ETCHINGS.

BRITISH MUSEUM. THRACIAN TREASURES FROM BULGARIA. On loan from the People's Republic of Bulgaria until 28 March. Wkdys. 10-5 and 3.45-9 on Thursdays only. Last admission 8.30. Suns. 2.30-6. Adm. free.

COLNAGHI'S, 14 Old Bond St., W.1. 491 7408. 500 YEARS OF FINE PRINTS until 10 March. Mon.-Fri. 9.30-6.00: Sats.: 10-1.

FINE ART SOCIETY
148 New Bond Street. 01-629 5116
EARLY ENGLISH WATERCOLOURS

FISCHER FINE ART, 30 King St., St. James's, S.W.1. 839 3942. HANS DOERLINGER—Recent Work: CONROY MADDOX—Gouaches of the 1940s and Important 19th & 20th Cen. Works of Art, including Bacon, Dogas, Moore, etc. Until 12 March. Mon.-Fri. 10-5.30: Sats. 10-12.30.

GIMPEL FILS, 30 Davies St., W.1. 493 2488. WORKS ON PAPER.

HAYWARD GALLERY, South Bank, S.E.1. (Arts Council.) MINIS: A Centenary Exhibition. Until 7 March. Mon.-Fri. 10-8. Sat. 10-6. Sun. 12-6. Adm. 40p, 10p all day Mon. 6-8 Tues.-Fri.

LEFEVRE GALLERY.—Contemporary Paintings and Drawings. Weekdays 10-5; Saturdays 10-1.—30 Bruton Street, London, W.1. 493 1572/3.

MARLBOROUGH, 6 Albemarle St., W.1. EDUARDO PAOLOZZI: New Reliefs and Sculpture. Also new Graphics. Mon.-Fri. 10.00-5.30. Sat. 10.00-12.30. Until 6 March.

GATE
Mizoguchi
SANSHO DAYU
(SANSHO THE BAILIFF)
A
"A Masterpiece" S.Telegraph
"Unmistakeably a great film" Obs.
"It is one of this remarkable director's finest films" Gdn.

THE ARTS

Pleasures and perils of pastiche

Farewell My Lovely (aa)
Leicester Square
Russian Roulette (a)
Rialto
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (x)
Odeon, Leicester Square

David Robinson

In the great retreat into nostalgia, the yearning to re-create the world and values of private-eye fiction and the 1940s *film noir*, Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe has become an archetype. In *The Long Goodbye* Robert Altman cast Elliott Gould as a worn and weary Marlowe and applied the critical test of facing him with the values of the Seventies. In *Goodbye My Lovely* (made by the same production team of Elliott Kastner and Jerry Bick) Dick Richards has Robert Mitchum as Marlowe, and aims more directly for affectionate and comforting nostalgia.

Richards's earlier works have been a pleasant western, *The Culpepper Cattle Company* and a "road" film, *Rafferty and the Gold Dust Twins*, and on his own admission he is bent on working his way through every different genre. Earlier he was an advertising photographer; and it shows in the almost pernickety care over the details of his period re-creation—the clutter of Jessie Florian's shuttish bungalow, the shabbiness of rooming houses and neglected office buildings, the smooth Forties elegance of millionaires' mansions and a racketeer's casino boat. All that spoils the look of this pastiche of the surfaces of the Forties B-picture is the need to use colour: you cannot recapture the black-and-white impressionism with the gold-brown haze which Richards substitutes.

The film is cast with a feeling for people's period looks. Something of the Forties always seems to linger about Robert Mitchum and John Ireland (Nulty). Charlotte Rampling has the dry, masculine looks of actresses like Lizabeth Scott and Lauren Bacall. Sylvia Miles is everyone's idea of a dime-novel lush.

If anything, the period touches are over-emphatic. Not content with the blurry flashbacks, transitions, subjective nightmare and knock-out images beloved of Forties Hollywood, and the voice-over, first-person narrator, the film introduces such artless bits of colour as a tedious running theme about Joe DiMaggio's baseball scores.

With such concern for period authenticity (which in fact does not extend to the cut of Mitchum's trench-coat) it is surprising that the writers had not more confidence in Chandler's own story. The plot has been battered around, characters have come and gone to "modernize" it (AA-category sex, lesbianism, homosexuality and minor four-letter words). The effect is to introduce an enigmatic confusion—at least one main character, the effete Marriott, now has no clear connexion with the story at all—in place of the teasing Chinese-puzzle neatness of Chandler's own solutions. For this kind of pastiche you need the conviction to go all the way.

This, at least, *Russian Roulette* has. The influence of Robert Altman is strong. The film is the feature debut of a former Altman assistant, Lou Lombardo. The producers are the same as for *The Long Goodbye*. The stars, George Segal, Cristina Raines and (in a small role) Louise Fletcher are all Altman alumni; and the rubicund and bearded face of Altman himself, if I am not mistaken, makes a brief and startled appearance on the screen.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest: Jack Nicholson and Nathan George

Enough of Altman's idiosyncratic humour has rubbed off to make a very lively little entertainment out of a commonplace and not altogether coherent spy story about a plot to kill Kosygin during a state visit to Canada.

The film adopts one of Altman's favourite devices of firecracker jumps from one bit of action to the next, leaving the audience to catch up on the connexions later. Lombardo shares, too, the same delight in eccentricity and the unexpected. We are introduced to an appropriately sinister CIA agent, going inscrutably home with the groceries and the latest number of *Playboy*. The next moment he is cackling daftly at the joke of heaving some small boys' ball through a window and leaving them to face the consequences.

The secret service chief (Denholm Elliott, who is now a master at this sort of character) is so cheap and grubby that he will sneak a draw from someone else's cigarette. The impeccably turned out hit-man imported from over the border crumbles into pitiful incompetence. The show-stopper, however, is an old lady who does not even figure in the credits, who with the utmost good will allows people to slay one another on her front lawn, while memorizing a message about the KGB assassinating Kosygin as dutifully and unconcerned as if it were a recipe for apple crumble. It is only a pity Lombardo did not take as much care with his Russian characters or their accents, which somewhat let down this slight and jolly film.

Since it was he who enticed Louise Fletcher out of nine-year retirement to play in his *Thieves Like Us*, Robert Altman can even be credited with a contribution to Milos Forman's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, in which she proves an admirable antagonist to one of Jack Nicholson's most rounded performances.

John Higgins has discussed the background to the film at length in a recent article on this page, so that it is enough to recall that it is adapted from Ken Kesey's 1962 novel of the same title. Laurence Hauben's and Bo Goldman's screenplay follows the book pretty faithfully, apart from the shift from the original first-person narration by a patient in a mental hospital, a gigantic Indian who affects—either from sickness or revolt—to be deaf mute.

The central character—again it is impossible to distinguish sickness from guile in him—is Randle Patrick McMurphy, who is sent to a mental hospital for observation, from the prison farm where he is serving a short sentence. His maniac undisciplined vitality has an electrifying effect upon the other patients, exciting them out of their lethargic acceptance of the despotic ward routines, infecting them with a new will to normality.

Such a disrupting influence comes into direct conflict with Nurse Ratched (Louis Fletcher), a "model" nurse, who senses a threat to her ward discipline and the autocracy due to her as the sane one in the cuckoo's nest. The conflict escalates into murderous confrontation in which McMurphy is the inevitable loser at the game of bugging the establishment.

Forman shot the film in an actual mental hospital, used patients as extras, had his actors model their performances on other patients, and (with his predilection for non-professionals) used the actual superintendent of the hospital in his own role in the film—a wonderful performance with all the unconvincing deceit and bonhomie that psychiatrists bring to their relations with patients.

Taken as a documentary on the treatment of mental illness, it would at best be disconcerting—though, sad to say, there is a lot of documentary truth about it. Kesey and Forman see it as a much larger metaphor for the situations which place people, with all their frailties, prejudices and imperfections, in artificial situations of power over others. Kesey has felt the effects of such situations as a prominent member of the San Francisco underground, pursued across the States and finally imprisoned (in 1966) for drug use. (He is said to be the original for Tom Wolfe's *The Electric KoolAid Acid Test*.) Forman speaks as a Czech artist and immigrant of '68.

Forman has lost nothing of his skills since *The Fireman's Ball*, his last film in Czechoslovakia, and *Taking Off*, his first in the United States. Uproarious comedy (the truant cuckoos' fishing trip in a hi-jacked boat) is juxtaposed with brutality and horror (Ratched's skilled unmanning of the youth who has just overcome his sexual hang-ups in the most practical way), just as in the individual characters comic antics coexist with horrible inner confusions.

At the end, at least, Kesey and Forman permit a hint of optimism: the big dumb Indian fulfils McMurphy's unrealized and uncertain dreams of escape from this madhouse microcosm of an oppressive society.

A fine piece of musical theatre

Blaise le savetier
French Institute

Thomas Walker

André Danican-Philidor, the eighteenth-century composer and chess player extraordinary, stands as a symbol of cordial relations between the ruling classes of Britain and France. A familiar of the aristocracies of both countries, he moved easily from the splendour of the French Royal Chapel to the intimate surroundings of the London Chess Club: a declared *émigré* after the Revolution, he died on this side of the Channel.

His one-act *opéra comique* *Blaise le savetier* (1759), given by the Opera Buffa Society, was, then, a most logical choice for an early opera evening on Wednesday at the French Institute. A delightful choice, too, The story is bourgeoise, funny and deftly handled. A cobbler and his wife, about to be dispossessed by their landlords, manage to turn the tables by exploiting earlier cross-paired love affairs—a bit of seduction, a bit of blackmail—even extorting payment for a broken cupboard at the end from the amorous but tight-fisted M. Pince.

Philidor's music (to turn history wrong way round) smacks of early Haydn, but with a more refined sense of how to underscore the comic moment than Haydn ever developed. The concentration on ensembles and lack of vocal acrobatics make it an ideal vehicle for educating young amateurs in the mercenary uses of sex.

This was, however, no amateur performance, with Emile Belcourt a masterly Blaise, his rough-grained vocal portrayal perfectly matched to the character, and Felicity Lott a coquettish but lusty-voiced Blaisine. Garrick Jones and Lissa Gray, as M and Mme Pince respectively, were vocally slightly less even but well suited to type. Nicholas McGegan led the young players of the New London Consort in a spirited and fairly well co-ordinated accompaniment.

Much of the credit for the excellent production must go to Hugh Vickers, whose staging was always lively and to the point, keeping superimposed "business" within just limits. Amyas Martelli's period costumes and interior I found convincing and mindful of the requirements of the action.

Whatever the undoubted merits of the sponsoring Petit Club Francais's appeal fund, a single performance at £6.50 a throw is a sad waste of such a fine piece of musical theatre, champagne notwithstanding. Paired with *La Serva padrona* (to which it is clearly superior), *Blaise* would make up a welcome alternative to "Cav and Pag".

The Glittering Prizes
BBC 2

Alan Coren

Sadly, the six-week run of *The Glittering Prizes* came to an end on Wednesday. Sadly, because viewers will not now see the controversial episode seven, in which the fraught question "Why did Frederic Raphael write the previous six?" is fully, and, of course, unbelievably wittily, answered.

Professionally privileged to have glimpsed this final bright nail of the coffin, I am bound to say that the lay viewer has been deprived of much that is necessary to an understanding of the entire corpus. Called *Listen, How Much can it Hurt?* it takes its title from the advice given to hero Adam Morris by his uncle Nat, to whom he has gone in his agonized search for someone who will reassure him that he has the talent to write a television series based on his Cambridge generation. He has already asked all his contemporaries themselves, but he cannot get a straight answer out of any of them, preoccupied as they are with making their answers as witty as possible, and thereby meaningless.

When his uncle asks him what his difficulty is, Adam describes his fear that he will not be able to invent representative characters to shout epigrams at one another, since he met only four people at Cambridge and they were all pretty similar, being either people who wanted to go into television, or people who did not.

"How about scientists and lawyers and economists and medical students and sportsmen and linguists and similar?" uncle Nat asks wittily. "Couldn't you write about them?"

No, replies Adam, because he never met any, and uncle Nat says, listen, you are a writer, can't you make them up out of your imagination, isn't that what writers are supposed to do? At which Adam faints, a beautiful coup de théatre and one of the rare occasions when a Raphael character stops talking long enough to do something, even if it's only fall down.

Revived, Adam says he has to stick to what he knows, and uncle Nat finally agrees that this is no bad course, since in a long wholesale life he has never manufactured anything but dressing-gowns, blouses he would not even touch, and this policy has brought him a very comfortable living.

This reminds Adam that he could also put in a lot of stuff about how hard it is to be Jewish, and uncle Nat says this sounds a pretty good idea, although personally he could not sit through another one like that, having seen it a hundred times already, but there has to be a 101st time for everything. Adam replies that he also plans to put in period material to capture the flavour of the evanescent years, such as drainpipe trousers and references to *Educating Archie*, and uncle Nat is finally persuaded, telling Adam to go ahead, there could be any number of awards in it, but don't listen to critics; how many critics have got Oscars on their mantelpieces?

So Adam goes away, confident at last. I wept, I laughed, I went out and bought a radio.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Haymarket, Leicester

Irving Wardle

Whether the idea or the casting came first, Robin Midgley's production sets out to restore the full romantic magic to the *Dream*, this purpose being embodied in the Puck of Mia Farrow, who doubles as Philostrate and acts as the presenter of the evening.

Visually, Miss Farrow is superbly equipped for parts like Puck or Ariel. The phosphorescent sparkle of her eyes and her androgynous physique invariably place her at a distance from palpably human actors and make you fix your attention on her in case she vanishes the minute you look away. But her speech is another matter. When she uncoils from a dark corner and spreads her hands, she seems to be heralding something unearthly, but the performance that follows rather brings things down to the level of the Artful Dodger, thumbs locked in her braces and dispensing good cheer with carefully anglicized vowels.

However, she does have the rest of the production to back her up. Ironically, it takes over several ideas from Peter Brook and turns them inside out. Theseus and Hippolyta are doubled with Oberon and Titania, but not so as to reinforce the sense of the oncoming nuptials or to convey any sense of danger. I have never seen such a smiling and harmless pair as Darryl Kavann and Heather Sears.

The point is that Athens and the wood are both departments of fairyland where nobody believes in Egeus's fulminations, and everything is bound to work out for the best. Adrian Vaux's woodland consists of sliding gauze panels lit in midnight blue to suggest peacock wings and inhabited by black-robed sprites carrying drums and flexotones which chime in with offstage tubular bells, whose sweet sounds serve further to distort the muzzy delivery of the two principals.

The best speech in the production comes from the lovers, particularly Tina Marian's Hermia, a diminutive spitfire with the rare comic gift of being able simultaneously to attack and flee in terror. These well-choreographed scenes show Mr Midgley in his usual top form as a director of farce.

The mechanicals, led by Linal Haft's Yorkshire Bottom, are loaded with excessive business at the expense of character. It is hard to follow the play scene for all the dropped beards, lost swords and giggling corpses. However, Michael Atwell and Anthony Pedley show no well in bergamask, thunderously accompanied by the other four. And the scene contains one brilliant new trick where Bottom, explaining things to Hippolyta, freezes as in a dream, wondering where he has seen that face before.

Toulouse Chamber Orchestra
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Keith Horner

Their publicity had them posing defiantly on a wing of Concorde, but during Wednesday's concert by the Orchestre de Chambre de Toulouse one could have wished for a few supersonic bangs to add life to an occasion which turned out to be as dry as old bones. Since the retirement of their conductor, Louis Auriacombe, the orchestra has declined to employ a member of his profession and now, as a small body of eleven strings, sit in a wide semicircle, with harpsichord when necessary.

Handel's A major Concerto Grosso, Op 6 No 11, began with a cosy, down-tempo veneer *à la* Albinoni adagio, wrapped around its phrases. The composer's indication to play staccato was ignored, dotted rhythms crawled along and the harpsichord added a few tentative chords here and there. A brave attempt by the principal violin and now musical director, Georges Armand, to brighten up the proceedings with several abrupt changes of tempo during his solos in a subsequent Andante was firmly resisted by his colleagues.

Unfortunately, the orchestra also resisted Haydn's suggestion of providing employment for oboes and horns and one was drawn to the conclusion that their union must have a rule against cueing in for absent members. As it was, the accompaniment to Haydn's D major piano concerto (H XVIII No 11), or rather that portion of it which was allowed to escape from behind the sonorous splendour of the modern concert grand, had a lean, undernourished quality, not without a certain charm in the courteous way in which it slowed up before the piano entries in the finale.

The soloist was Thérèse Dussaut, who brought along her own cadenzas in place of those by Haydn. Miss Dussaut gave a neat, polished reading of the Ten Bagatelles, Op 5 by Alexander Tcherepnin. Since they were composed in 1919, the composer has added a string accompaniment to these well-crafted miniatures which are rather in the style of early Prokofiev. Like Honegger's Symphony No 2, it was carefully executed by the Toulouse Chamber Orchestra, who left the focus firmly on the pianist.

Suor Angelica / Die Kluge
RAM

Alan Blyth

"It all begins to make sense", one of the characters in Orff's *Die Kluge* says towards the end of this one-act opera. He was lucky. For me this hodge-podge of pseudo-philosophical ideas masquerading in a supposedly comic frame formed a second half of almost unmitigated tedium at the RAM on Wednesday in spite of a lively production by Dennis Maunder, done as an eightieth-birthday tribute to Orff.

If he had stuck to his last as a composer and not attempted to write his own libretto, Orff might have been more successful. The music, although largely derivative, is often engaging, occasionally sensitive, but its development is hopelessly maimed by prolonged dialogue spoken by a modern version of *commedia dell'arte* characters who seldom come to life.

The central theme of a king, who in a Turandot-in-reverse situation, has to marry a girl who solves his riddles, has more bite, and a few pertinent thoughts about truth, tyranny and self-will. The girl, the wise one of the title, has much the best music, including a haunting lullaby after she has given the king a sleeping drug.

The role invited the most responsive singing of the evening from Beryl Korman, in whom the Academy may have discovered another Norma Burrowes. Her king, David Wilson Johnson, also produced good sounds, a vibrant baritone to watch. The other characters coped as they could with neo-Strauss, neo-Weill and neo-Prokofiev.

Anthony Jones's amber-coloured, turreted set, on various levels, worked well both for the Orff and for *Suor Angelica*. In the Academy's schizophrenic way the Puccini was given in fairly incomprehensible Italian while Orff was done in translation. In any case, it is hardly a piece for students, calling for a big-voiced prima donna in the central role. By student standards Christine Taylor distinguished herself, but it was not quite enough. As the Princess, Nicola Lanzetter convincingly suggested age, and revealed a fruity mezzo, surely soon to be ripe for Azucena. Mr Maunder's production, in the improvised theatre of Duke's Hall, inevitably shirked some of the theatrical coups.

Nicholas Braithwaite, cruelly neglected by our opera houses, spurred on an accomplished student orchestra to great deeds in Puccini and, as far as the composer allowed, in Orff too. They were the true heroes of the evening.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Events Following the Closure of a Motor Cycle Factory
Brum Studio

Charles Lewsen

It is clear, when a gleaming motor cycle bursts on to the stage to interrupt a solemn opening announcement, that David Edgar aims to spice instruction with delight in his account of the workers' fight to keep alive the motor-cycle industry in the Midlands. However, his use of coloured placards, and the counterpoint of argument with card games played according to no perceptible rules, leaves me substantially mystified about three years of recent industrial history.

In general I grasped his point: that workers can no less more trust a Labour government than they can a company director who treats dedicated craftsmen like chips on one of his gambling tables; that nationalization does not protect workers from redundancy, and that their best interests are served by creating and working for co-operatives.

The last contention comes across with genuine force because it is dramatized in the words of men excitedly telling how responsibility as members of the Meriden cooperative has caused them to discover new talents in themselves; it is reinforced by statements of men's passion for their work—"He could practically make a bike talk"—and by a plaint, sensitively composed by Trevor T. Smith, that equates a craftsman's vocation with that of Maria Callas or Muhammad Ali.

At such moments Mr Edgar quits the lecture theatre and introduces human drama into the operating theatre of the social anatomist. Elsewhere he does not allow us to digest his argument: one gathers that in the maze of capitalism a man may find that he is not employed by the firm for which he thought he worked; but one is not imaginatively thrust into the maze, to touch its dank walls, to be choked by its airless atmosphere.

Di Seymour has put the actors in a shapely black booth, with a nice arrangement of entrances through which, like jacks-in-boxes, they can pop with news of parliamentary double-dealing; and members of the cast enthusiastically leap off the stage to take up instruments to play melodies by Mr Smith, and by Ludwig van Beethoven, whose recent aural infirmity seems slightly to have taken the edge off his accustomed harmonic invention.

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SPORT

Rugby Union

Morley may be fit for county semi-final

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Alan Morley, the Bristol wing threequarter, whose knee injury took him out of the England side to play Scotland in Edinburgh last week, was optimistic yesterday that he would be fit to play for Gloucestershire in the county semi-final round tomorrow and available, if required, for the next England international, against Ireland at Twickenham seven days later.

Yesterday, there was also better news about Maxwell, the Headingley centre, who suffered a pulled hamstring in the Scottish international. His club were hoping that he would be fit to play against Hartlepool Rovers tomorrow.

However, when the selectors meet on Sunday to pick the England side to play Ireland they will know that Duckham and Squires are out of consideration. Duckham was another to be replaced in the Calcutta Cup match because of a hamstring injury. Squires suffered a fractured arm in the Welsh international but might yet be fit for the match against France in Paris on March 20.

Morley was due to play on the right wing, in place of Squires, against Scotland. Assuming that he comes through impressively for his county against Lancashire tomorrow it seems probable that the selectors will give him Duckham's place, on the other flank, for the Irish game, and retain Plummer on the right. In only his second international in seven years, Plummer, also of Bristol, had a most lively and productive game in attack against Scotland. His one fault was a tendency to have the ball knocked out of his control in the tackle. He is not, because of his physique, the most rugged character at close quarters.

If Maxwell fails to make the grade, the selectors could restore Barrie Corless, who played against Australia and who joined Moseley from Coventry the other day, or give a first cap to French, of the Wasps. Other candidates are Keith Smith, a proven international now playing for Roundhay again after injury (in his usual club position of standoff) or Rutter, of the Harlequins.

Corless had an indifferent start against Australia but finished in credit, and then was unlucky that an injury cost him his place against Wales. His successor, Cooke, of the Harlequins, has since done his cause no harm at all, although he did drop one most takeable pass at Murrayfield when England grew desperate and ragged by the end. There seems little wrong with French's defence and I would rate him as having greater attacking potential than Corless. He has a nice sway of the hips, and he moves like a centre of quality.

The most ticklish selectorial decisions, as always in the England camp, will revolve around the choice of half backs. Cooper was the original selection at stand-off against Scotland, but Old, apart from having a kick charged down and apart, possibly, from having some problems in adjusting himself anew to the furious pace of an international, had a balanced game. Of the two, Cooper is the sort of player who needs a longer service. So, if he is restored, I hope the selectors would give him Stephen Smith as partner.

Lampkowski's virtues, not the least of them his strength and competitive spirit, are clear for all to see, but so are his vices, and it is surprising that his captain, Neary, did not insist at Murrayfield that his scrum half should stop taking on the opposition himself. He may of course have done so, but it was not apparent.

One of the arguments for retaining Lampkowski is that it would be a great discouragement to a promising young player to leave him out at this stage. However, it should do him no harm for a while to polish his service and acquire a greater tactical maturity at club and county level. Smith played well in the one trial I was able to see. His recent form for Sale and Cheshire has been, by accounts I respect, outstanding.

England's line out effort at Murrayfield was rather disappointing but the scrummaging was impressive and the whole pack went off with such a bang that it will be surprising if the same eight forwards are not retained for a fourth consecutive match. I thought the two flankers, Neary and Keyworth, had their best all-round games this season, Keyworth looking now to have made the transition from club to international football.

Hignell still has his critics at full back, although in my book his performance against Scotland was his best since reaching this level. The selectors, keeping their nerves, probably will make as few changes as they can and, broadly speaking, I think they would be right to adopt this line. It may be just as well in the present situation that England are due to play Ireland at Twickenham and not France in Paris. Let *nil desperandum* be their motto, and may they have the character to rise up from yet another misfortune. Granted they made some of the old awful mistakes, granted they became ragged under pressure, but let it not be overlooked that in the opening phase, when they played some commanding, balanced football, they came within several whiskers of leading Scotland by over a dozen points. They are due, surely, for a change of luck.

Andy Maxwell (left) and Alan Morley who hope to return tomorrow after injury.

Cobner is recalled by Wales

Terry Cobner who had to withdraw from the Welsh triple crown match against Ireland, last Saturday, because of injury, is recalled to play against France, at Cardiff, on March 6.

He replaces Tom David, of Pontypridd, but Cobner will have to prove his fitness at the run out, at Cardiff two days before the match. Wales, who will be looking for the grand slam they last achieved in 1970-71, have thus picked the same line-up they originally named for the Dublin visit.

Wales, *top of the five nations* table, have scored 83 points against 84 by opponents this season, but in addition they also defeated Australia in December with a score of 28—3 to make a total of 111 points scored in four games this season.

France, also unbeaten in two games this season, drew an exciting match 15 points all when they last appeared at Cardiff two years ago, but their last win at the Arms Park was in 1968 when they were successful by 20 points to nine.

Team: J. P. R. Williams (London Welsh); T. G. R. Davies (Cardiff), R. W. Gravell (Llanelli), S. P. Fenwick (Bridgend), J. J. Williams (Llanelli); P. Bennett (Llanelli), G. O. Edwards (Cardiff); A. Faulkner (Pontypool); R. W. Windsor (Pontypool), A. J. Martin (Aberavon), G. A. D. Wheel (Swansea), T. Cobner (Pontypool), T. M. Davies (Swansea), T. P. Evans (Swansea).

The referee is Mr J. R. West, of the Irish Rugby Union.

Mason comes in for Lutter

Northampton make forward changes for the game at Leicester *tomorrow*. David Mason will replace Ian Lutter at prop and there is a big doubt about the former British Lion, David Powell. Powell hurt a leg in training and will have an examination before a decision is made on his fitness.

Thirty-six teams from colleges and universities in South East England will be competing in a seven-a-side tournament at Richmond Athletic ground

Football

Docherty gives his side a vote of confidence

Manchester United will be unchanged for the sixteenth successive match against West Ham United at Old Trafford tomorrow.

Following Wednesday's draw with the champions, Derby County, United are without a win in their last four league games. The manager, Tommy Docherty, however, had no hesitation in giving a vote of confidence to his young side.

David McCreery (18) is once again named as substitute, this being the eighteenth occasion he has been on the bench this season.

The Leeds United manager, Jimmy Armfield, was dealt another blow yesterday when Eddie Gray was ruled out of tomorrow's game at Coventry, because of a thigh strain.

Mr Armfield said that Bremner, Clarke and Lorimer would also miss the Coventry match. He said: "We have so many injuries, as well as sickness, among the younger players that I am seeking to have the third team game postponed on Saturday, because we will not be able to raise three teams."

Dennis Mortimer, Aston Villa's £175,000 signing from Coventry, could play his first match for six weeks tomorrow. He will probably be in the reserves against Everton at Villa Park.

He was described by the manager, Ron Saunders as a "Christmas present for the fans" after helping Villa beat West Ham 4—1 on his Boxing Day debut. Three games later, however, he limped off during the visit of Newcastle and has since undergone treatment for damaged knee ligaments. He returned to full training this week.

John Mahoney, Stoke City's Welsh international mid-field player, is back in training after a week's compassionate leave, following the death of his mother. Stoke have only one injury problem, Conroy, who is under treatment for a hamstring strain.

Newcastle arrive with six first team men

Newcastle United learnt yesterday that the League Cup final must go ahead tomorrow despite the illness at the club. The manager, Gordon Lee, may be forced to play some inexperienced youngsters against Manchester City.

Len Went, the Wembley Stadium press officer, said: "I gather the position was rather delicate, but Mr Hardaker rang me to say the match is definitely on."

Only six recognized first team players were fit to travel south yesterday with Newcastle. Included in the party were the reserve goalkeeper, Eddie Edgar, a centre half, Aiden McCaffery, a former England schools international David McLean, and a defender, Ray Blackhall. McCaffery and Blackhall have had less than half a dozen first team matches between them, the rest none. Mr Lee said: "I would be prepared to play them all in the final if necessary."

Cassidy, Barrowclough and the acting captain, Tommy Craig, the latest flu victim, made the trip yesterday though they are still not well. Others who travelled to their Hertfordshire hotel were Cannell, Keeley, Burns and Gowling. Mr Lee's assistant, Richard Dinnis, will take the rest of the party down today.

Mahoney (thigh injury) and Nattrass (ankle) are still under treatment and Kennedy, Macdonald and Howard all have cold or flue symptoms.

Nattrass is prepared to play with a pain-killing injection, but has been advised that this will probably mean missing the FA Cup tie at Derby on March 6—and the England under-23 game against Hungary four days later.

Nulty, the captain, was ruled out two weeks ago with a broken jaw and David Craig has had an operation on damaged knee ligaments.

In contrast, Manchester City, tucked away on a health farm in *the Chilterns, have no problems.* The manager, Tony Book, cleared up his only team doubt when he chose Keegan, 20, for his second match at right back. It is the same side which beat Everton 3—0 last week.

Keegan and the 19-year-old winger, Barnes, are the only City players never to have played at Wembley. Mr Book has decided not to undertake the traditional pre-final pitch inspection with his party.

The City team: Corrigan; Keegan, Donachie, Doyle, Watson, Oakes, Barnes, Booth, Royle, Hartford, Tueart. Substitute to be announced.

Two of tomorrow's League games and one tonight have been postponed, because of influenza. The Saturday games called off are between Shrewsbury Town and Sheffield Wednesday in the third division and the top-of-the-table fourth division meeting between Bournemouth and the pacemakers Lincoln City.

Bournemouth had their application for a postponement upheld by the Football League when they reported that seven players were suffering from influenza, four others were injured and Billy Steele, on loan to them, had been recalled by his club, Norwich City.

Sheffield Wednesday, whose home game against Chesterfield on Wednesday was called off because of influenza, are still without several players and the Football League today agreed that their trip to Shrewsbury should be postponed.

Tonight's fourth division fixture between Crewe Alexandra and Watford has also been postponed. Crewe, whose match at Rochdale on Monday was also called off, still have 11 players down with flu.

Efforts are to be made to rearrange the Watford match for Wednesday next week.

Scoular is new manager of Newport County

Jimmy Scoular, the former Cardiff City manager, was yesterday appointed team manager of the fourth division club, Newport County. Mr Scoular attended a board meeting at Somerton Park and afterwards the Newport chairman, Mr Cyril Rogers, said: "We are delighted he has accepted the post. The appointment takes effect immediately."

David Elliott, the former Southend United player, was dismissed as player-manager on Wednesday following a series of poor results and drastic falling off of public support. He stays with the club as a player.

Mr Scoular, nine times an international for Scotland and an outstanding wing half with Portsmouth and Newcastle, was dismissed by Cardiff City in November, 1973.

He said: "I am very pleased to be back in League football and although I have no magic wand I feel I have a fair chance of doing something worth while for the club. I hope the soccer public of Newport will now rally round and give the county the support it deserves."

Today's fixtures

Second division
Charlton Athletic v Carlisle (7.30)

Third division
Peterborough v Hereford (7.30)
Southend Utd v Crystal Palace (7.30)
Walsall v Gillingham (7.30)

Fourth division
Doncaster v Darlington (7.30)
Northampton v Scunthorpe (7.30)

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: First division (south): Canterbury v Trowbridge (7.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE: First division: Castleford v Dewsbury (7.30).

Cross-country

Brazil will make their first entry

By Neil Allen
Athletics Correspondent

Twenty countries, including Brazil for the first time, have entered the international cross-country championships at Chepstow tomorrow. The unexpected participation of the Brazilians, who are the South American champions and have been training specially in Germany, has been agreed by the *International* Amateur Athletic Federation who are eager to make this event a virtual world championship.

Unfortunately the reigning men's champions, New Zealand, are not making the costly trip across the world this time, as they did to the Moroccan capital of Rabat last year. But the fields for the men's, women's and juniors' races will include the United States, who hold the team and individual titles for women and juniors and finished fifth in the men's race.

Apart from the four United Kingdom teams, other countries competing in the senior race over seven and a half miles tomorrow are Algeria, Belgium, Republic of Ireland, Finland, France, West Germany, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia and Russia. Canada run only in the junior events.

Individual runners will be officially declared today. At the moment, however, it *seems that* only two of last year's first seven men home, Mariano Haro, of Spain, and Frank Fava, of Italy, will be racing so there is a chance of new faces. Though Fava is supposed to be in good form, it is the Spaniard Haro who will have most to prove. In Rabat he finished second to Ian Stewart, and that was the fourth time that Haro had been the runner-up in this race.

Thirteen junior teams, two more than last year, will be racing at Chepstow. The English athletes, competing in a more temperate climate than that of North Africa, have good reason for hoping to improve on their sixth place in Rabat.

Athletics

Tancred gets a boost from workers

Bill Tancred, the British discus record holder from Loughborough, will go to Hastings on Monday to thank a group of workers who have boosted his Olympic preparations.

Through the help of employees at the ITT Consumer Products Company, at Hasting and Kearsley, Lancashire, Tancred is to spend almost a month training with the world record holder, John Powell, in San Jose.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for me as I prepare for my third Olympic Games", said Tancred, a 33-year-old physical education senior lecturer at Trent Polytechnic.

"It is the first help of this kind I have received in 14 years as a British international, and I shall do all I can to produce my finest form in return for the faith these workers have shown in athletics", he said.

The money for Tancred's fare to the United States and the rest of the support being given to nine other members of the national throwers' squad, is being raised by weekly contributions over four months from the workers. The scheme will bring in £3,000.

Tancred's American trip, from March 31 to April 25, has been arranged through the International Athletes' Club, who, in return, will invite Powell back to compete in the Coca-Cola meeting, their own invitation event, in August.

Among the other throwers benefitting from the sponsorship are Geoff Capes, Charles Clover and Tessa Sanderson. Capes has only recently returned from an American stay during which he recaptured much of his best form. He will now be going to Grenoble, to make use of the top class indoor facilities.

Badminton

Two new caps in Irish team to meet Scotland

Two new caps, Brian McKee and Bill Thompson, are in Ireland's badminton team to play Scotland, in Dublin on March 6. The team will be: Men's singles: McKee and Thompson; women's singles: Heather Young; men's doubles: John Scott, Cliff McIlwaine, Peter Moore, and Thompson; women's doubles: Dorothy Cunningham and Yvonne Kenny; mixed doubles: Scott and Mrs Cunningham. With the exception of Miss Young and Miss Kelly, both from Leinster, all the players are from Ulster.

Barbara Beckett, Ireland's No 1 woman player, is not available for the match because she will be competing in the West German open championship. She has been recalled for the match against Wales at Cork on Saturday, March 13, taking over from Miss Young in the singles and from Mrs Cunningham in the mixed doubles.

Bowls

S Africans' easy victory over Japanese

Johannesburg.—South Africa coasted to an easy victory Thursday against Japan to win the pairs title at the third world men's bowls championships. Douglas Watson and Bill Moseley defeated Japan's Mitsuaki Inami and Shingo Sarumaru, 41—7, in play interrupted by rain to take top position.

The South Africans still have to meet Scotland in the fifteenth and final round on Friday but a defeat will not stop them from taking the gold medal. They are two points ahead of the United States team of Dick Folkins and Neil McInnes and have an unassailable net shot score of 269 to the Americans' 162.

The final competition in the triples category, also led by the South Africans, comes on Friday and the singles and fours will highlight next week's activity.—AP.

Boxing

Dunn's influenza means another change to the Albert Hall bill

By Neil Allen
Boxing Correspondent

There has been a third change in the top of the bill contest at the Albert Hall next Tuesday. For Richard Dunn against Earnie Shavers, at heavyweight, now read a double header—the British lightweight champion, Jim Watt, against George Turpin, and the light - middleweight holder, Maurice Hope, who boxed and won on Wednesday, against "an American opponent to be named later this week".

Dunn had an attack of influenza which has removed his chance of a lifetime against Shavers or, if you are impressed by the American heavyweight's knockout record, chance of the beating of a lifetime. Before last Tuesday's announcement of Dunn v Shavers, which was bound to help advance ticket sales, we were told we were going to see a middleweight battle between Alan Minter and Billy Knight. Before that an Albert Hall promotion on February 17 had to be cancelled when the British light-heavyweight champion, Chris Finnegan, who was to have defended his title against Roy John, sustained a detached retina.

It might not have been too surprising if next Tuesday's boxing had also been postponed or cancelled by the enforced withdrawal of Dunn. But the Albert Hall matchmaker, Mickey Duff, said yesterday that 10 other boxers had been training hard for the chance and he did not want to let them down.

I have a colleague who assured me recently that British professional boxing was really in good shape because we have two world champions—even though one of those, the light-heavyweight, John Conteh, prefers to box overseas. I still think that what is happening, or rather not happening, at home gives ground for concern.

Even the most blinkered observer could not *avoid considering* that the failure of the featherweight, Vernon Sollas, voted the best young boxer of 1975 by the British Boxing Writers Club, to win a European title, is part of a dispirited trend. It follows the retirement of Chris Finnegan, the partial failure of his brother, Kevin (who lost the European middleweight title last May), the retirement of the heavyweight, Joe Bugner, and a second unsuccessful challenge for the continental bantamweight title by Paddy Maguire.

The somewhat fortuitous victory of Bunny Sterling in Hamburg last Friday for the European middleweight championship can hardly make up for all those body blows.

Sollas, counted out in the 14th round against Elio Cotena, of Italy, at York Hall on W[illegible] night, proved he had n[illegible] how to pace an importan[illegible] True, he had had diff[illegible] making the featherweight [illegible] nine stone, and is still [illegible] But he already had been [illegible] painful lesson about the [illegible] of stamina and continuing [illegible] back in 1974 when he was [illegible] out, after being well [illegible] points, by Evan Armstro[illegible]

With so much ballyho[illegible] fessional boxing nowada[illegible] you, and goodbye Je[illegible] Coopman) perhaps ever[illegible] terested in the sport sho[illegible] at their fingertips all [illegible] included in the latest *Box[illegible] Annual*. (Byblos Pr[illegible] Limited, £1). My first [illegible] dated 1946, and its conti[illegible] can be judged by the [illegible] Sellotape which hold it [illegible] Until I opened the lates[illegible] would have been pre[illegible] believe that Big Jim W[illegible] cowboy star rather tha[illegible] lia's undefeated Comm[illegible] flyweight champion.

David Needham, the [illegible] British bantamweight [illegible] who will box in future a[illegible] weight, has challenged El[illegible] the Italian who retained [illegible] pean title by knocking o[illegible] Sollas.

Hockey

Oxford punished for their misses

By Sydney Friskin

Oxford University 0 HA XI 3

The Hockey Association's annual fixture against Oxford University, which fell through on February 3 because of bad weather, was hurriedly restored at The Parks yesterday. A smaller crowd than usual for this match was treated to a fair example of constructive hockey after a slow beginning.

Ten of the HA players were drawn from the British Olympic party, the odd man out being Owen, the goalkeeper, himself an international. He replaced Mills, who was indisposed, and gave a superb display. Except for Featherstone, who was replaced by Wells, Oxford fielded the same side that beat Cambridge 7—0 at Lord's last Saturday. Wells played as a substitute then and scored the seventh goal, and so all the Oxford players were Blues.

After their sparkling victory at Lord's, Oxford might have had hopes of beating the HA or at least of drawing with them. They played well, but failed to seize their chances, which was a costly thing to do against players of international class. The result was encouraging for the HA players on the eve of another training weekend at Marlow, where they will play two matches on Sunday. They deserved to win yesterday, but should have done so with more authority.

An encouraging feature of the HA's play was the excellent support given from behind to the three-man forward line of Brookeman, Disbury and Marsh. Aldridge continued to show what a great asset he is in midfield and Wilson did much to stabilize the back division. In the absence of Long, Disbury struck the short corners extremely well, two of his shots finding the target.

Eight minutes elapsed before the first thrill was provided. Wilson's pass split the Oxford defence, but Marsh, who was well placed inside the circle, put no power behind the ball which was almost helped into goal by Pouncey. Disbury then picked up a pass from the right and beat the goalkeeper with a strong shot, but the hit was taken outside the circle. When Disbury had another shot from a short corner soon after the ball was smothered by an intervening stick.

Oxford missed a great chance of taking the lead in the 17th minute. A pass from Goulty on the left was picked up by Watson, who was on his own in front of goal. His quick shot was well saved by Owen and when permitted a second chance lost control and the ball ran out of play.

Twenty-eight minutes passed before the HA earned their second short corner, Disbury again took the hit and was pleased to see the ball deflected into goal by a defender's stick. Both sides tightened their defence and there were no further thrills up to half-time.

The HA owed their second-half successes to a lively midfield build-up in which Saldanha, Wilsan and Aldridge played important parts. Most of the fire came from the right flank [illegible] Brookeman set up the fir[illegible] A hasty shot by Aldridg[illegible] the mark and Oxford br[illegible] from the free-hit to fo[illegible] first short corner from [illegible] brilliant shot by Hob[illegible] saved on the line by Wi[illegible]

Owen came to the HA [illegible] to save from Hobkirk w[illegible] Oxford's second short co[illegible] after. While the HA [illegible] were trying to scramble [illegible] away Pouncey failed to [illegible] chance. There followed [illegible] attack by the HA on [illegible] where Aldridge made ar[illegible] with a fine reverse-stick [illegible] was seized by Marsh wi[illegible] an easy goal in the 15th [illegible] In spite of some spirited [illegible] Oxford the HA increa[illegible] lead four minutes before [illegible] with Bisbury converting [illegible] corner, the mechanics [illegible] worked perfectly.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: J [illegible] (RGS Newcastle and [illegible] C. M. G. Pouncey (Marlbo[illegible] Wycliffe), A. A. Hobkirk ([illegible] lumbia University and Jesus [illegible] T. B. Norfolk (Kent School a[illegible] B. S. Wells (Colston, Bristo[illegible] ham), P. J. Hardman [illegible] Wandsfield and St Peter [illegible] Draper (Natal University [illegible] broke), I. G. Goulty (Bo[illegible] Corpus Christi), M. Prech[illegible] borough College and Univers[illegible] Watson (Magdalen CS and [illegible] Hall), S. M. W. Bishop ([illegible] and University). Sub. R [illegible] (Cape Town University and [illegible]

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION: [illegible] Owen (Southgate); P. C. F. [illegible] Kingsmeadians, Dublin), D. E [illegible] (Spondon), P. J. Wilsc[illegible] Dragons), I. S. McGinn ([illegible] I. A. Thomson (Hounslow [illegible] Saldanha (Birkenhead), D. [illegible] ridge (Southgate), R. R. [illegible] (Hounslow), R. R. Dis[illegible] ditch), P. R. J. Marsh ([illegible] Umpires: Sqn Ldr R. W [illegible] and Wing Cmdr K. C. Br[illegible] bined Services).

Rugby League

Leigh should not fail against 500-1 outsiders

Leigh, whose main target this season is promotion from the second division, should maintain their Rugby League Cup challenge this weekend. Their second round tie against Doncaster on Sunday will be their thirteenth home game out of their last 14 Challenge Cup games, and they could hardly have had an easier task in their attempt to reach the last eight than being drawn against the 500 to 1 outsiders.

Alex Murphy, the coach who last took Leigh to Wembley, has been criticized this season for his handling of Warrington, whom he also steered to victory in a Challenge Cup final. There were few plaudits for the manner of his team's first round victory over the amateurs, Leigh Miners' Welfare. Now Warrington travel to New Hunslet and Murphy has impressed upon his team that, despite their second division status, the Yorkshire side will be a tough nut to crack. He says: "They are one of the most improved teams in the League this season and we cannot afford to relax against them."

Warrington won two cup clashes with New Hunslet last season but the New Hunslet front row forward, Wandmill, underlines Murphy's assessment when he says: "We've improved tremendously since we last met Warrington and we can win this time."

The game of the round is at The Willows, where Salford entertain St Helens, with the feeling that the winners will go on to be successful at Wembley, but the clash between the holders, Widnes, and Wigan, who are still in with a chance of winning the first division championship would also be a thriller. Widnes will be without their Welsh winger, David Jenkins, and Wigan fancy this will balance the match in their favour.

Cricket

A famous name to help an enterprise

England Young Cricketers go to West Indies from July 24 to September 6 this year with the assistance of the late Agatha Christie, but it is no mystery tour. The name of the famous authoress is associated with a company helping to finance the trip.

It will be the second tour of its kind. The first was made in 1972 and 11 of the 15 who went then have since played first-class cricket, among them Graham Gooch, of Essex, who won two Test caps against Australia last summer.

The other 10 were John Barclay (Sussex), Grahame Clinton (Kent), Peter Booth (Leicestershire), Keith Gardom (Warwickshire), Tony Good (Lancashire), Ivan Johnson (Worcestershire), Geoff Miller (Derbyshire), Bernard Reidy (Lancashire), Bill Snowden (Cambridge U) and Andy Stovold (Gloucestershire).

Players must have been under 19 on September 1, 1975 to be eligible.

Squash Rackets

Runner-up is top prize le[illegible] to Mrs McKay's rivals

By Rex Bellamy
Squash Rackets Correspondent

The British women's squash rackets championship, sponsored by Langham Life Assurance, begins today at Wembley. Heather McKay, of Australia, remains so far ahead of everyone else in the world that she should win the title for the fifteenth successive season—and do so with an ease that may tempt us to take her exemplary skill and competitive qualities for granted.

Apart from the exhilarating *spectacle of Mrs McKay's* inevitably brief forays on court, the championship will have two main areas of interest. One will be the identity of the runner-up. The seedings and form suggest that it will be Mrs McKay's compatriot, Susanne Newman. In five British tournaments this year Miss Newman has been beaten only twice: by Mrs McKay and the British number one, Susan Cogswell.

The expected semi-final round between Miss Cogswell, the 1974 runner-up, and Miss Newman, who has twice reached the last four, could be the best match of the championship. Since 1967, when Anna Craven Smith became Mrs Bullock and retired, Miss Cogswell and Francesca Marshall have been the only British players to reach the final. The other runners-up have been three Australians, two South Africans, and a New Zealander.

The other *interesting* feature of the tournament will be domestic. From July to September a British team of five will be on tour in Australia for five weeks. Miss Cogswell, Angela Smith and Teresa Lawes are the obvious front-runners for places [illegible] more contenders, Jane [illegible] Karen Gardner and [illegible] Corrie, arrive at Wemb[illegible] that one of them will [illegible] have to miss the tou[illegible] last 16 Miss Gardner [illegible] Cowie should play ca[illegible] which has not happen[illegible] long time, and Mrs Cour[illegible] beware the challenge o[illegible] Diggens, who won t[illegible] match.

The trip to Australi[illegible] clude the first world o[illegible] pionship, an individual [illegible] event that could be de[illegible] a semi-official experim[illegible] initiative for this innov[illegible] Australian. They wante[illegible] more a world team cha[illegible] as well. But Britain opp[illegible] taking the view that [illegible] would be too restricted [illegible] political reasons such [illegible] squash-playing nation [illegible] Africa would not be invit[illegible] a team, and that in an [illegible] individual event would [illegible] this trial run.

The British touring [illegible] however, play int[illegible] matches against Australi[illegible] Zealand. They will also [illegible] in the Australian char[illegible] which will probably be [illegible] to amateurs—thus bar[illegible] McKay.

Of the 16 seeds at W[illegible] are British, two Austr[illegible] Irish and one Rhodesi[illegible] predicted pairings for th[illegible] final round are: Mrs [illegible] Miss Gardner, Miss Smi[illegible] Lawes, Irene Hewitt v [illegible] well, and Mrs Courtne[illegible] Newman. Tuesday will b[illegible] rest day. The final v[illegible] Thursday.

Double Surtees entry

Two Surtees entries have been confirmed for the Race of Champions, at Brands Hatch on Sunday, March 14. They will be driven by Australian Alan Jones and David Purley, from Sussex. Jones will be at the wheel of the new Durex Surtees TS19, which will be making its first European appearance.

Ice hockey

WORLD ASSOCIATION: [illegible] Stingers 5, New England [illegible] San Diego Mariners 2, Minn[illegible] ing Saints 1; Winnipeg Jets [illegible] Crusaders [illegible], Calgary [illegible] Edmonton Oilers 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: [illegible] Golden Seals 6, New York [illegible] Atlanta Flames 5, Pittsburg[illegible] St Louis [illegible] Montreal Canadiens 3, [illegible] Toronto [illegible] Maple [illegible] Detroit Red Wings 0.

Tennis

ROTTERDAM: J. Kodes beat W. Fck [illegible] 6—0, 6—4; R. Lutz beat R. Gray [illegible] 6—0, 2—6, 6—3.

Golf

KACHSIUNG: Taiwan Op[illegible] Underwood (US) [illegible] Hsu C[illegible] Kuo Chi-Hsiung, 70. Sada[illegible] (Japan) [illegible] Liro Nuo-Chu; [illegible] Kong.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions off	Conditions Piste	W
Andermatt	30	150	Fair	Varied	Fi
North slopes still good					
Isola 2000	160	200	Good	Varied	Su
Good skiing conditions					
Mürren	70	155	Fair	Varied	Fi
Spring snow on south slopes					
Niederau	20	45	Icy	Heavy	Fi
New snow needed					
St Anton	40	200	Good	Varied	Fa
Spring snow on south slopes					
Val d'Isère	85	165	Good	Varied	Fi
Good skiing on upper pistes					
Verbier	20	100	Fair	Heavy	Fi
Worn patches on some runs					

In the above snow reports, supplied by representativ[illegible] Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U [illegible] slopes. The following reports have been received from othe[illegible]

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
GERMANY					
Hochfirstgaden	5	30	Fair	—	0
Berchtesgaden	0	40	Fair	Fine	0
Hindelang	20	50	Good	—	-3
Garmisch-Partenkirchen	110	200	Good	—	-3
Mittenwald	10	60	Fair	—	-1
Oberammergau	10	70	Fair	—	1
Oberstdorf	70	70	Crust	—	-7
Oberstaufen	20	60	Good	Fine	-2
SWITZERLAND					
Adelboden	40	80	Good	Sun	8
Braunwald	70	120	Good	Sun	6
Flims	50	60	Good	Sun	6
Gstaad	30	100	Good	Sun	6
Grindelwald	30	100	Good	Sun	6
Gurnigel	30	90	Good	Sun	6
Kandersteg	20	100	Hard	Sun	6
Lenk	50	60	Hard	Sun	6
Lenzerheide	30	60	Good	Sun	6
Les Diablerets	50	80	Good	Sun	6
Leysin	5	110	Hard	Sun	6
Saanenmöser	20	100	Good	Sun	6
Saas-Fee	80	120	Good	Sun	6
Sarganns	25	50	Hard	Sun	6
Wildhaus	30	100	Hard	Sun	6
Zermatt	85	70	Good	Sun	6

Chairmen may play on the softness of the players' union

The reluctant fight for freedom

By Alan Stewart

At 3.20 this afternoon, the chairmen of the 92 Football League clubs assemble at the Great Western Hotel, Paddington, for an extraordinary general meeting to decide an issue which, if passed, will change the face of professional football in this country for ever. The only items on the agenda is the proposals, hammered out in 14 months of agonized negotiation between their management committee and the Professional Footballers' Association, for freedom of contract for England's 2,000 professional footballers.

Freedom of Contract has scarcely set the back pages alight. The daily ephemera of match incident, terrace violence, transfer requests, and the enormous debts of clubs like Crystal Palace, Luton Town and Portsmouth have consistently put the dry, legalistic issue of players' contracts into the shade. Nevertheless, if the more militant club chairmen are to be believed, this afternoon's decision could bankrupt some of our most famous clubs almost overnight.

At stake for the footballers are the rights which every other worker in every other industry possess—the right to work where they want, for whom they want, and for as long as they want. At present, footballers are *tied to* contracts which have a one-way option: when the contracts expire, the clubs have an option on the player's services, generally for as long as the original contract. If a player wants to move during that time, the club can prevent it, or else put the player on the transfer list and demand an unrealistic fee. The proposals for freedom of contract would change that. A player would, in the future, sign a contract for a fixed period, at the end of which he may, if he wishes, transfer his registration to another club, with a fee paid to his former employers, worked out according to an elaborate formula. In essence, the Russian roulette would be taken out of a player's career.

These are scarcely revolutionary demands. They would not affect the present transfer market during the period of the player's contract. And football clubs would still be the only employers in the country entitled to demand compensation when an employee decides to leave after completing all the conditions of his contract. Even so, they have reaped a whirlwind of criticism. Club chairmen feel they would imperil the already rickety financial structure of their businesses, and argue that they would lead to mass unemployment among players as the few star footballers who can name their price fill their pockets at the expense of the rest.

The chairmen have, rather surprisingly, been joined by the Managers and Secretaries Association, under the aegis of West Ham United's Ron Greenwood. They have roundly denounced the proposals, and last week circularized all the clubs explaining why.

This latest attack baffles the PFA secretary, Cliff Lloyd: "I just can't understand their attitude. We're only trying to establish for our members what the managers and secretaries already enjoy. Yet they're trying to deny us our rights. I suppose they're scared *it'll remove a little bit of* their power."

Mr Lloyd is far from optimistic that his proposals will succeed. He is desperately handicapped by the fact that the PFA is among the least militant unions in the country. He knows this, and so does the League. But he has made life much harder for himself by his failure to tell the members exactly what is being discussed. He explains: "Once this has been accepted by the clubs, then all the players will have a chance to air their views. It's no good our going round the country explaining things to the players if the clubs turn down or alter parts of it. I know it's unsatisfactory, but the players have mandated a committee to negotiate on their behalf, and they must allow us to reach agreement."

Mr Lloyd's coyness has left most of his members baffled, confused, and not a little frightened. There has been no public debate about the proposals, and bearing in mind a relentless press campaign against them, the Arsenal chairman, Denis Hill-Wood, is almost certainly right when he says that if a referendum were held among the players today, the proposals would be turned down by a large majority.

This is a powerful weapon in the hands of entrenched interests, and it is probable that the clubs will be persuaded by the Coventry chairman, Sir Jack Scamp, and *bluff it out with the players.* As he points out: "Just how many of the players outside their committee do you think are willing to fight for these proposals?"

Cliff Lloyd resolutely refuses to be drawn on the unlikely spectre of industrial action by his members: "It's a matter we'll have to consider: if we are forced down this afternoon we shall refer back to the committee and then discuss it with the Department of Employment. Withdrawal of labour is the ultimate step. I'm certainly not going to get involved in strike threats at this stage. As for the result, I'm not optimistic. It's anybody's guess what will happen in there. I can just hope that common sense will prevail. But I have my doubts."

Whatever the result, we have certainly not heard the last of the vexed issue of players contracts. And the players themselves, when they hold their annual dinner at another London hotel, the Hilton, this Sunday, will have a lot to chew over.

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SPORT

Racing

Lanzarote shows his confidence

By Michael Seely

A large crowd that included Lanzarote's owner, Lord Howard de Walden, watched the 1974 champion hurdler gallop relentlessly to his third successive victory in the Kingwell Pattern Hurdle, sponsored by Ladbrokes, at Wincanton yesterday. Not only was this the third time that Lanzarote had won this race but his trainer, Fred Winter, must now most regard the Kingwell as his own private preserve having taken the three previous runnings with ease.

Winter was a happy and satisfied man afterwards. "The gallop is right, the ground was perfect, and I have never seen Lanzarote jump better", the Lambourn trainer said. Although Lanzarote ticked the top of the last two flights his hurdling was otherwise fluent as ever and yesterday's run showed among other things that Lanzarote's confidence had not been impaired by his mishap at Sandown Park.

The eight-year-old, a lazy stayer if anything, is never really impressive except in a fast run race, but his style of winning could not have been faulted yesterday. John Francome let him stride to the front at halfway, but he drew clear at the second last to beat Czaristt by five lengths.

The disappointment of the race was Avec Moi, who was never going well and finished tailed off. If you forgive Lanzarote his lapse last time out, his record this season shows that he is as good as ever. Now that the foot trouble which has plagued him in the past and which probably caused his failure at Cheltenham last year has cleared up he must have a first rate chance of regaining his crown.

But the bookmakers trimming of Lanzarote's price for the big Cheltenham race after a bloodless victory over comparatively moderate opponents seemed a reflex action and hardly justified. A great deal of light would be thrown on the Champion Hurdle picture if Bob Turnell were to send Bird's Nest to Doncaster on Tuesday to tackle the reigning favourite, Night Nurse, in the Corporation Hurdle. Turnell said that Bird's Nest is completely recovered from the slight mishap which prevented him from running yesterday but he stressed that only in the event of the ground easing would he send the gelding to Doncaster.

The Marlborough trainer told us this after the victory of Summerville, who beat Eyecatcher by a length in the Jim Ford Challenge Cup. Summerville won cleverly at the finish but six fences from home the issue was still wide open as Eyecatcher was jumping magnificently in the lead well clear of The Dikler, who in turn was several lengths in front of Summerville. But The Dikler tired soon after turning for home and finished a well-beaten third. Turnell intends to run Summerville in the Greenall Whitley Handicap at Haydock Park on March 6. The Dikler, who considering his need of a race ran a perfectly satisfactory national trial, will have another outing before Aintree, but probably not in the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

One of yesterday's winners who is certainly Cheltenham bound is Crofter, whom Chris Read rode to a stylish five lengths victory over Snow Track in the Fairyland Handicap steeplechase. Uncle Bing, who had jumped superlatively, was challenging for the lead when he pecked badly and lost his chance at the fourth fence from home. But Crofter is a highly promising young horse who has a future in front of him at the age of six. His trainer, Josh Gifford, said afterwards that Crofter's sporting American owner, George Sloan, from Nashville, Tennessee, will probably partner the gelding in the Kim Muir Handicap Steeplechase at the National Hunt festival.

Raiders from the Midlands and the north can capture three of this afternoon's six races at Kempton Park. Hopeful Curtis and Sidney, both trained in the heart of hunting Leicestershire, can take the Manor Novices Handicap Steeplechase (2.0) and the Corinthian Hunters Steeplechase (3.30).

Hopeful Curtis's regular rider, Joe Newton, who has already partnered the six-year-old to four successes this season, dislocated his shoulder in the Melton Hunt club cross-country race on Monday. Although Newton still hopes to be fit to ride Credit Call at Doncaster on Tuesday, his mother, Mrs Ursula Newton, has engaged the man of the moment, Francome, to deputize on Hopeful Curtis.

STATE OF GOING (official): Kempton Park: Good to firm. Teesside Park: Good. Doncaster (tomorrow): Steeplechase course, firm. Hurdles, good to firm. Stratford-on-Avon (tomorrow): Good to soft.

The weighty argument against Waite at Teesside

By Jim Snow

Some years ago the future of Teesside Park, then known as Stockton, looked far from assured as a racecourse. Attendances were dropping ominously and the executive had on its hands a battle for survival. That the corner has been turned is shown by tomorrow's programme. Three of the six races are sponsored, the £500 Joe Coral Handicap Hurdle, the Vaux Breweries Great Teesside Steeplechase, worth £500, and a new name, Metrohm, in a novice steeplechase, also £500.

After a leamish spell at the end of January and for the first two weeks of February, horses from Tony Dickinson's Gisburn, Lancashire, stable have recaptured their best form, and two of them may bring off a double this afternoon at Teesside with Shari in the first division of the Wainstones Novices' Hurdle and with Waite in the Lucy Glitters Handicap Hurdle.

Shari, bred in France and aged six, had not raced either on the flat or over hurdles before he contested a novice event last week at Southwell. But there were apparently few people in Nottinghamshire that afternoon who had not heard that he could jump and that he could gallop. The birds in Sherwood Forest were sending out the message from first light. From 7-4 against, Shari was backed down to 7-4 on, and he showed that racecourse rumours are not always wrong by winning unchallenged.

Michael Dickinson sent him to the front at the first flight, and he had 15 lengths to spare at the winning post. The previous week Raj Mataj, second to him in the Southwell race, had won from a field of 22 at Catterick Bridge.

Dickinson's other fancied runner, Waite, is unbeaten in three outings, two at Carlisle and one at Market Rasen. But he has not raced since Boxing Day, and his three victories were all in novice events. The handicapper has taken a severe view, and paid him the compliment of giving him 12 st 1 lb in the first handicap hurdle he has contested. Waite could find it a stiff task to give 13 lb to Stephenson's Carlisle winner, Alec Lewis, and 20 lb to Whitsuncelli, a winner at Teesside on February 16 from two useful handicappers, Really Royal and Infantryman. I take Waite to keep up his winning run, but Whitsuncelli must be a big danger.

Kempton Park programme

2.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div I: 5-y-o: Novices: £559: 2m)

000000 Bucks Fizz (Mrs D. Nicholson), D. Nicholson, 11-0 N. Laverock 7
Far Cry (Mrs J. Holmes), S. Woodman, 11-0 C. Goldsworthy
004023 First Break (S. Kennedy), M. Scudamore, 11-0 .. A. Turnell
u24 Hamish (C. Pritchard-Gordon), Pritchard-Gordon, 11-0 .. C. Peck 7
0000 Justino (Mrs H. Edwards), D. Barons, 11-0 ..... S. May
0 Longacre (G. MacDonald), D. Gandolfo, 11-0 ..... P. Barton
040322 Pablond (Mrs M. Lichman), M. Francis, 11-0 .. P. Kelleway
0 Silk City (W. Wildman), Wildman, 11-0 ..... M. Wagner
032040 Stemic (S. Stevenson), S. Supple, 11-0 ..... T. Bridge 5
00006-4 Tranby (W. Gebelcker), B. Payne, 11-0 .. James Guest 5

2-3 Pablond, 7-2 First Break, 5-1 Longacre, 13-2 Tranby, 8-1 Stemic, 10-1 Hamish, 12-1 Justino, Far Cry, 14-1 others.

MANOR STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: Novices: £756: 2½m 90yd)

213421 Hopeful Curtis (Mrs R. Newton) Mrs Newton, 6-11-7 J. Francome
204-211 Weather Chart (Mrs J. Embiricos), J. Gifford, 9-11-5 R. Champion
01b432 Tutors Best (Mrs H. Banks), M. Banks, 8-11-3 Mr C. Gifford
03-133b Two for Joy (E. Mumford-Smith), P. Rohan, 6-11-1 J. King
4e0110 Great (Mrs L. Browning), D. Browning, 7-10-12 G. Gracey 7
0403f Sunny Isle (Dr D. Webber), J. Webber, 6-10-7 .. A. Webber
004-000 Bob Gasche (F. Allingham), M. Scudamore, 8-10-2 M. Turnell
0320u0 Easy Runner (Mrs J. Ollivant), Mrs Ollivant, 9-10-7 Mr P. Hobbs 5
200000 Welsh Dresser (Mrs J. Ford), J. O'Donoghue, 8-10-7 P. Butler

3-10 Weather Chart, 4-1 Hopeful Curtis, 5-1 Two for Joy, 6-1 Tutors Best, Great, 11-1 Sunny Isle, 14-1 Bob Gasche, 20-1 Easy Runner, 25-1 Welsh Dresser.

ASHFORD HURDLE (Div II: 5-y-o: Novices: £559: 2m)

010 Baffin Bay (D) (E. Browne), J. Cann, 11-5 George Knight 7
042100 Embassy (Pearce Packing Services Ltd), L. Kennard, 11-5 J. Francome
004-102 Perucio (D) (T. Morris), R. Akehurst, 11-5 ..... J. King
0f2130 Trustful (Mrs N. Fenton), S. Mellor, 11-5 ..... J. Glover
0 Battering Ram (Lord Howard de Walden), F. Winter, 11-0 J. Francome
00 Berenina (A. Richards), D. Hanley, 11-0 ..... R. Kington 3
0 Fireball (P. Exell), D. Gandolfo, 11-0 ..... P. Barton
0f Game Gentleman (Mrs J. Debenham), D. Nicholson, 11-0 J. Suthern
0 Kerris (T. Godfrey), D. Jermy, 11-0 ..... P. Warner
Rilke (R. Macleod), D. Morley, 11-0 ..... R. Davies
Samuel Tan (J. McNulty), D. Dale, 11-0 ..... B. G. Hughes
p0 Shamarat (Miss S. Robins), R. Blakeney, 11-0 P. Buckle 7

4-1 Trustful, 5-1 Perucio, 9-2 Battering Ram, 11-2 Embassy, 7-1 Rilke, 8-1 Baffin Bay, 14-1 others.

EMBLEM STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £849: 2½m 90yd)

1232u0 Barnah (R. Dean), R. Blakeney, 8-12-0 ..... R. Linley
201201 Tudor Risk (R. Hayward), F. Cundell, 8-11-9 B. R. Davies
pf-430 Ben Dearg (W. Whitbread), R. Armytage, 12-11-4 J. Glover
10-3f0 Earl Alpen (E. Adkins), D. Ancil, 8-11-3 ..... S. C. Knight 3
-30240 Buckingham (A. Smith), R. Turnell, 6-10-13 .... A. Turnell
00-30p Westerly Winds (B. Hill), Hill, 11-10-8 ..... J. Burke
00000 Mac Vidi (Miss P. Neal), Miss Neal, 11-10-0 .... W. Smith

4-1 Tudor Risk, 3-1 Ben Dearg, 4-1 Barnah, 11-2 Buckingham, 8-1 Westerly, 12-1 Earl Alpen, 25-1 Mac Vidi.

CORINTHIAN STEEPLECHASE (Hunters: £665: 3m)

f1102-u Forest Rick (CD) (P. Wates), A. Wates, 11-12-6 Mr P. Wates 7
pp1p-3f Miserable Jim (D) (R. Mildmay-White), G. Dodge, 13-12-6 Mr R. Mildmay-White 7
f114-f1 Nicky Brown (D) (M. Opperman), Opperman, 12-12-6 Mr M. Opperman 7
3p- Veni Vici (D) (C. McDonagh), McDonagh, 12-12-6 Mr G. Hyatt 5
Fortunes Smile (J. Window), Window, 12-12-0 Mr J. Window 7
0- Rose Play (D. Gibbon), D. Nicholson, 9-12-0 Capt B. Fanshawe 7
Royal Hussar (Mrs D. Watts), Mrs Watts, 10-12-0 Mr C. King 5
uf- Sidney (J. Millington), Millington, 7-12-0 .. Mr C. Saunders

4-1 Forest Rock, 5-2 Nicky Brown, 3-1 Miserable Jim, 10-1 Veni Vici, 12-1 Sidney, 14-1 Royal Hussar, 16-1 others.

LITTLETON HURDLE (Handicap: Novices: 4-y-o: £762: 2½m 90yd)

240412 Magic Summer (I. Allen), R. Smyth, 12-3 .. R. Forsyth 7
112130 Military Debt (S. Reiter), L. Kennard, 11-12 .....
-71410 Saintly Purchase (Lord Barrington), D. Morley, 11-12 R. Barry
-f104 Running Scared (C) (A. Spence), A. Pitt, 11-7 R. Champion
1 Baltic Love (C. Booth), P. Rohan, 11-6 ..... J. King
100110 Baltree (Mrs C. Williams), D. Barons, 11-5 ..... S. May
000230 Light Infantry (P. Bronk), D. Barons, 11-5 .... P. Leach 7
22200 Linsky (M. Soames), F. Winter, 11-5 ..... J. Francome
04f010 Mourndyke (C) (J. Reiter), L. Holt, 11-1 ..... R. Atkins
1002 Ordnance Hill (M. Shaw), H. Collingridge, 10-12 L. Watkinson
0 Landing Party (Sir E. McAlpine), F. Cundell, 10-9 B. R. Davies
24010 Bill Hobbs (G. Balding), Balding, 10-9 ..... R. Linsley
003p0 Born Gambler (S. Powell), S. Mellor, 10-0 ..... J. Glover
0f2010 Our Fantasy (Sir M. Wilson), Mrs R. Lomax, 10-0 A. Carroll 5
000024 Yale Lad (Mrs D. Wintle), G. Wintle, 10-0 Mr A. Wintle 7
42f013 No Camping (S. Lee), R. Sturdy, 10-0 ..... C. Brown 5

Baltic Love, 5-1 Magic Summer, 13-2 Linsky, 8-1 Saintly Purchase, Military Debt, Mourndyke, 10-1 Landing Party, 11-1 Baltree, 12-1 Born Gambler, 14-1 Running Scared, Ordnance Hill, Light Infantry, 16-1 others.

Kempton Park selections

Our Racing Staff

Pabbnd. 2.0 HOPEFUL CURTIS is specially recommended. 2.30 Trustful. 3.0 Ben Dearg. 3.30 Sidney. 4.0 Baltic Love.

Our Newmarket Correspondent

Hamlh. 2.30 Rilke. 4.0 Saintly Purchase.

Teesside Park programme

1.45 WAINSTONES HURDLE (Div I: £340: 2m 176yd)

1 030010 Hindhope (Mrs S. Hogg), Mrs Hogg, 6-11-13 .... P. Mangan
2 1 Shari (D. Adams), A. Dickinson, 6-11-13 ... M. Dickinson
4 00000 Chanroe (W. J. Smith), W. J. Smith, 6-11-3 Mr H. Orde-Powlett 7
5 0320 Milthouse Boy (Brig T. Usher), Usher, 6-11-3 .. Mr T. Bull 7
7 p0bu30 Shalimar (Mrs W. Parker), C. Fairbairn, 6-11-3 .. B. Powell 5
9 420070- Torso (R. Johnston), Mrs Chesmore, 6-11-3 .... —
10 00000f Before the Mast (S. Anderson), J. A. Turner, 5-11-0 P. Salmon 7
15 0fb0 Flying Diplomat (S. Griffith), A. Smith, 5-11-0 .. N. Tinkler
16 p4f002 Gusty Somers (D. Cooper), B. Richmond, 5-11-0 M. Blackshaw
19 030-2p2 Oakley Cross (N. Chamberlain), Chamberlain, 5-11-0 B. Fletcher
22 Rigorous (Mrs J. Simpson), Mrs Simpson, 5-11-0 A. Meaney
23 Skandia (W. A. Stephenson), Stephenson, 5-11-0 .. T. Stack
24 04 Skerne (E. Smith), M. Camacho, 5-11-0 ..... D. Greaves
25 00 Sun and Air (Mid) (F. Ingham), B. Wilkinson, 5-11-0 J. James
27 000- Thats Penny (Mrs L. Arnold), C. Jones, 5-11-0 J. Armstrong 5
28 0-0 Tudor Chest (A. Walker), B. Richmond, 5-11-0 P. James
29 0 Tully Town (Mrs A. Dickinson), A. Dickinson, 5-11-0 G. Brewster

2-5 Shari, 5-1 Skerne, 8-1 Oakley Cross, 10-1 Gusty Somers, 14-1 Milthouse Boy, 20-1 others.

2.15 LORD LOVETIN HURDLE (Handicap: £340: 2m 5f 104yd)

2 311bp0 Fair Cop (J. Pickavance), S. Nesbitt, 6-11-6 .... K. McCauley
3 0-10343 Poseidon (W. C. Watts), Watts, 5-11-5 ..... C. Tinkler
6 001300 March of Time (C) (P. Cook), Cook, 12-11-1 ..... D. James
7 2-122ff Viaduct (C) (R. McDonald), J. Fitzgerald, 7-10-13 .. J. Crowley
8 0-44414 Jane Agale (C) (P. Robinson), W. Haigh, 6-10-12 P. Charlton 7
9 143 Sweet Dough (Mrs M. Vell), D. Barker, 5-10-8 .. M. Murphy 7
11 p00000- Trim Lewis (C) (J. Cummings), G. Richards, 12-10-6 D. Goulding
13 03-0000 Kenpak (Mrs J. Thomson), H. Blackshaw, 8-10-6 .....
16 00004-1 Sally's Choice (M. Taylor), D. Williams, 7-10-5 .. S. Charlton 7
17 300 Carol's Choice (J. Craig), F. Carr, 4-10-4 ..... M. Blackshaw
18 00 Skyver (T. Bell), Bell, 7-10-1 ..... L. Semple 7
19 000-00 Throstle Nest (S. Norton), Norton, 7-10-0 ..... B. Fletcher
20 0-00000 Valwell (N. Russell), S. Norton, 6-10-0 ..... J. Beaton 5
21 000030 Shermaggie (C. Stephenson), D. Ureman, 4-10-0 .... B. Brogan
22 p-0p000 Trattoria (A. Smith), Smith, 6-10-0 ..... N. Tinkler
23 000000 The Specialist (R. Baggaley), P. Felgate, 5-10-0 .. G. Holmes
24 00p0 Northern Crown (J. Lupton), B. Lupton, 11-10-0 .. J. Peace 5
25 0f0000 Spillers Jenny (Miss J. Rutter), E. Magner, 5-10-0 E. Bruce 7

3-1 Sally's Choice, 100-30 Shermaggie, 4-1 Jane Agale, 11-2 Sweet Dough, 8-1 Viaduct, 10-1 Poseidon, 12-1 March of Time, 14-1 others.

2.45 FACEY ROMFORD STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £666: 2m)

2 212101 Tom Morgan (CD) (J. Rolls), K. Oliver, 7-12-7 .. C. Tinkler
4 1fp112 Sea Count (D) (A. Weaver), G. Richards, 7-10-5 C. Brownless 5
6 312002 Even Melody (CD) (Lady Hay), N. Crump, 7-10-3 .. T. Atkins
8 33331u Never There (D) (L. Irving), T. Barron, 6-10-0 .... M. Barnes
9 fu0443 Barbie's Song (D) (Miss E. Riddell), G. Fairbairn, 7-10-0 R. Lamb
11 42f020 Three Fred's (D) (Maj G. Maley), A. Watson, 9-10-0 G. Graham 5
13 434403 Ana Rose (D) (A. Smedley), Smedley, 9-10-0 .. Mr R. Smith 7

5-2 Tom Morgan, 3-1 Even Melody, 7-2 Sea Count, 6-1 Never There, 10-1 Barbie's Song, 12-1 Three Fred's, 14-1 Ana Rose.

3.15 LUCY GLITTERS HURDLE (Handicap: £561: 3m)

2 111 Waite (D) (P. Tyldesley), A. Dickinson, 6-12-1 M. Dickinson
4 4-21112 Some Hazard (D) (R. Quincey), C. Tinkler, 11-11-9 N. Tinkler
6 041004 Night Talk (C) (Mrs M. Clayton), P. Felgate, 8-11-5 J. Beaton 5
7 00-0031 Alec Lewis (J. Lisle), W. A. Stephenson, 6-11-2 .. T. Stack
8 000000 Proud Night (B. Holmes), A. Jarvis, 7-11-1 ..... —
12 030001 Whitsuncelli (CD) (Mrs A. Newton), M. Naughton, 6-10-9 M. Barnes
13 Brorale (Exors of late W. Simpson), Mrs Simpson, 10-10-8 A. Meaney
14 001104 Carne Gray (C) (Mrs P. Brewitt), N. Crump, 6-10-6 R. Walker 7
15 002020 Cool Gabriel (K. Tyler) Tyler, 8-10-1 ..... R. Donaghy 7
16 234011 Last Attempt (W. Wilson), B. Richmond, 10-9-7 M. Stirling 7
18 00-000f Barefoot Warrior (B. Walker), A. Watson, 5-10-0 G. Graham 5
19 000-000 Abo-Slim (Mrs L. Arnold), W. Arnold, 6-10-0 J. Armstrong 5

4-5 Waite, 9-2 Some Hazard, 6-1 Night Talk, 8-1 Whitsuncelli, 10-1 Carne Gray, 12-1 Last Attempt, 14-1 others.

3.45 YARM STEEPLECHASE (£544: 3m)

1 3u0104 Brasidus (C) (Ld Cadogan), N. Crump, 6-12-1 .... D. Atkins
2 0-00f13 Cantraptd (J. Britton), W. A. Stephenson, 6-12-1 .. T. Stack
4 02124 Inistioge (M. B. Easterby), Easterby, 7-12-1 .. M. Dickinson
6 202224 Royster (T. Bell), Bell, 6-12-1 ..... —
7 00-p3b0 Caesarean (Mrs B. Ward), A. Jarvis, 6-11-8 A. Taylor
9 0f4-03f Cossak Prince (Murray Vernon Ltd), W. D. Francis, 6-11-8 A. Taylor
10 b43-0 Cross The Line (Brig J. Usher), Usher, 9-11-8 Mr A. Macnaghten
15 003124 Gold Prince (R. Bethell), Bethell, 7-11-8 ..... G. Holmes
16 f Indian Sheba (J. Gilman), N. Crump, 7-11-8 .. C. Hawkins 7
18 00-1 Marjambar (Mrs M. Herbert), M. Prescott, 6-11-8 J. Scullion 5
17 00-002 Quilitrem (L. Clark), K. Oliver, 6-11-8 .. N. Tinkler
18 200-420 Raise Your Hat (P. Rimmer), G. Richards, 7-11-8 D. Goulding
19 f-00034 Sharman (Mrs F. Wyldbore-Smith), J. Leigh, 10-11-8 D. Nolan

8-13 Inistioge, 3-1 Royster, 9-2 Cantraptd, 6-1 Cossak Prince, 8-1 Raise Your Hat, 10-1 Gold Prince, 12-1 Quilitrem, 16-1 others.

4.15 WAINSTONES HURDLE (Div II: £340: 2m 176yd)

1 001030 Early Morning (CD) (A. Sims), F. Wiles, 6-11-13 S. Wiles 5
2 40-2121 Park Road (Lady Barber), B. Wilkinson, 6-11-13 J. James
3 000-201 Sea Urchin (J. Kettle), W. A. Stephenson, 6-11-13 T. Stack
4 3002 Go Bang (Lady Harries), Lady Herries, 6-11-5 .. D. Munro
5 00 Inveraray (A. Widdas), Widdas, 5-11-5 ..... D. Brown
6 0 Annway (Mrs M. MacDowall), W. Atkinson, 5-11-0 P. Mangan
7 0p- Arthcora (Mrs A. Fawcett), J. FitzGerald, 5-11-0 M. Lowry 7
8 Caiz Llenga (P. Buckley), Buckley, 5-11-0 .. M. Murphy 7
13 0 In Vision (Mrs S. Wilkinson), A. Dickinson, 5-11-0 M. Dickinson
14 f400-04 Montreal Boy (N. Chapman), J. Calvert, 5-11-0 N. Tinkler
15 0-00030 My Riders (C. Nagel), B. Richmond, 5-11-0 .. M. Blackshaw
16 040302 Nells Son (Mrs B. Ward), A. Jarvis, 5-11-0 .....
17 0 Only Money (Mrs D. Gordon), G. Richards, 5-11-0 D. Goulding
19 00-02 Slonnaigh Beaktina VI (Mrs B. Heath), G. Fairbairn, 5-11-0 P. Broderick
20 004 Tamieshanter (A. Lyburn), G. Richards, 5-11-0 .....
21 0f The Tinker (Mrs J. Milligan), B. Wilkinson, 5-11-0 .. D. Atkins

3-1 In Vision, 9-2 Park Road, 5-1 Sea Urchin, 6-1 Montreal Boy, 7-1 Nells Son, 8-1 Go Bang, 10-1 Only Money, 12-1 Slonnaigh Beaktina VI, 14-1 others.

Teesside Park selections

1.45 SHARI is specially recommended. 2.15 Sally's Choice. 2.45 Tom Morgan. 3.15 Waite. 3.45 Inistioge. 4.15 Sea Urchin.

Show jumping

Britain may not pick amateurs for first event

By Pamela Macgregor Morris

With more than four weeks still to go before the closing date for entries, there is already an entry of eight international teams for the Prince of Wales Cup at the Easter meeting at Hickstead on April 19—the first Nations Cup of Olympic year.

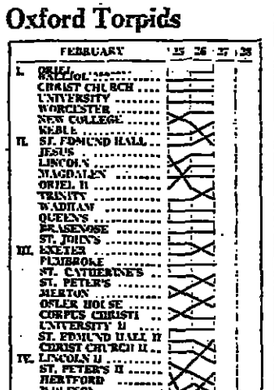
Those teams taking advantage of a public outing over Britain's only permanent international show jumping course are West Germany, once again the defending champions; France, Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, New Zealand and the host nation. Switzerland have also shown an interest in sending a team. The international affairs committee of the British Show Jumping Association have already announced that the seven short-listed amateurs for Montreal will not be competing as a team until the Lucerne international show at the end of May. There is thus a strong possibility that those professionals who have horses ready in April will be selected to defend the Nations Cup, which they won at Hickstead last July. But it does not necessarily mean Commander Bill Jefferis, secretary-general of the governing body, told me yesterday, that there will be no amateurs in the British team at Hickstead.

The West Germans, however, whose official international show in Aachen has been moved forward from July to May 15 to 23, will doubtless be looking to the Prince of Wales Cup as a trial run for their own Nations Cup the following month. They may thus be expected to field a team of Olympic strength. The same thing applies to the French, who are going to have to provide a satisfactory demonstration of their potential in order to get to Montreal at all.

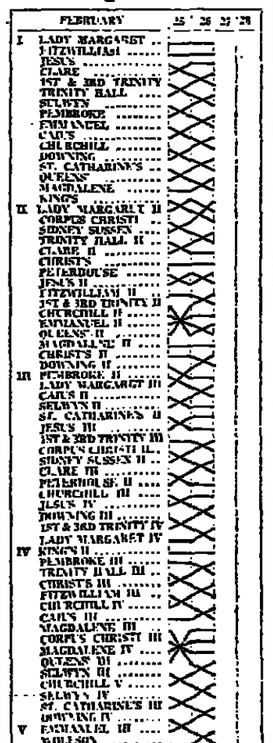
Only six Nations Cups will be held before the Olympic Games take place. They will be at Hickstead, Aachen, Lucerne, Olsztyn (Poland) and Trinwillershagen (East Germany).

The first British tour of the year will be to 's Hertogenbosch, in the Netherlands (March 12-14) and Dortmund (17-21). The riders are David Broome (with Heatwave, Jaegermeister and John Fahey's former horse Moneymaker), Harvey Smith (Truman, Volvo and Willi Buch's former horse, Willi Swap), Caroline Bradley (Marius, Lady Fraser's The Black Professor and Intercontinental), Paddy McMahon (Pennwood Koyle and Red Polo), Lionel Dunning (Free Agent) and Pamela Dunning (Miniature and Penny Paul). McMahon will return home after the Dutch show, leaving the others to travel on to Germany.

Oxford Torpids



Cambridge Lents



Law Report February 26 1976 — Court of Appeal

When charter hire is due on Sunday

The Laconia

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Bridge

[Judgments delivered February 25]

The Court of Appeal decided, by a majority, that shipowners had waived their right under a time charter party to withdraw a vessel where "punctual payment" of the hire fell due on a Sunday and, because the banks were closed, the charterers did not pay until 3 pm on the Monday. The Master of the Rolls said that if punctual payment could not be made on the due date because the banks were closed, the rule should be the same as it was with the courts of law where something was done in time if done on the next day the court offices were open.

The court, in reserved judgments, Lord Justice Bridge dissenting, allowed an appeal by Mardorf Peach & Co Ltd, of London, charterers of the vessel Laconia, from Mr Justice Donaldson ([1975] 1 Lloyd's Rep 634) who had held, on a case stated by arbitrators, that shipowners, Attica Sea Carriers Corporation of Liberia, were entitled to withdraw their vessel because the hire payment was late.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted.

Mr Anthony Lloyd, QC, and Mr Nicholas Legh-Jones for the charterers; Mr J. S. Hobhouse, QC, and Mr Ian Kimnell for the shipowners.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that on January 8, 1970, the owners of the Laconia let her on a time charter to the charterers for three months 15 days more or less at charterer's option. The hire was $3.10 per ton per calendar month. A printed clause provided that "failing the punctual and regular payment of the hire . . ." the owners were at liberty to withdraw the vessel. A special typed clause said that hire was to be paid to "owners . . . into their account with First National City Bank, New York, 34 Moorgate, London EC2 to the credit of OFC [Overseas Finance Corporation] account 705386".

The first six instalments were paid punctually. The seventh fell due on April 12, a Sunday. The banks were not open; nor were they on the Saturday before. The charterers thought they would be in time if they paid on the next opening day, Monday. The owners thought that payment should have been made on Friday, the 10th.

At that time the market had risen sharply to $5.50 per ton, so it was to the owners' advantage to determine the time charter as soon as they could, and let the vessel out afresh at the higher rate; it was to the charterers' advantage to keep it going at the lower rate.

On the Sunday the vessel was outside Halifax, and the charterers had undertaken that she should load cargo for Glasgow. On the Monday morning the owners noticed that the hire had not been paid and thought they could withdraw the vessel forthwith. But they decided, without telling the charterers, to "give it until 3 pm, meaning that if the hire payment was received before that time we should accept it, but that if it was received afterwards, it should be rejected".

They warned the charterers by telephone on the Monday morning that they were in breach of the hire obligation and that they were contemplating withdrawing the ship. The charterers understood that as a request for immediate payment of hire. Realizing they were in peril they instructed their London bankers, the Midland Bank, Eastcheap branch, as a matter of urgency to "arrange for immediate payment so that money will still be with owners this morning" asking them to pay directly to the credit of the numbered account with FNC under the typed clause. Midland got into touch immediately with their overseas branch, which made out a "payment order" and sent it round by hand to FNC at Moorgate. The messenger delivered it at or about 3 pm, shortly before closing time.

The payment order figured largely in the case. It was issued under the London currency settlement scheme operated by banks. The Midland Bank had a running account with the FNC Bank into which it credited or debited United States dollars. When it issued the "payment order", Midland made an entry in that account crediting FNC with $33,328. That was a credit as between the two banks themselves. Midland also debited its customer, Mardorf Peach, with that amount in its own books. When FNC received the "payment order" they made an entry in the running account debiting Midland with the amount. That was a debit as between the two banks themselves. FNC also credited its customer's OFC account 705386 with that amount in its own books, and notified its customer accordingly.

Such "payment orders" were regarded by the two banks as equivalent to cash passing between themselves.

Each bank, in its own books, debited or credited its own customer at the time of the transaction with the appropriate amount and notified its customer accordingly. It took some little time—up to 24 hours—to "process" the payment order to the final stage when it credited its customer's account; but it could be done more quickly if the customer asked for it specially.

After the Midland messenger had handed the payment order over the counter at or about 3 pm, it went through further processing and at about 3.30 pm an "editor" telephoned the owners saying that they had received a payment order for the amount of the charter hire. The owners at once instructed FNC to refuse the money and return it to Midland; so the "editor" doing the processing struck out what had been written and wrote instead "Returning funds per OFC instructions". Someone else wrote "Beneficiaries refused payment. Please advise remitter by phone". Then someone telephoned Midland and told them of the refusal. Next day FNC sent a payment order over to Midland returning the like amount to them.

Three hours later on the Monday, at about 6.55 pm, the owners telexed the charterers, saying that the owners withdrew the vessel. That put the charterers in the gravest difficulty for the voyage to Glasgow. The owners asked for $6 a ton as against the $3.10 charter rate. The charterers had no choice but to pay; but it was agreed that adjustments should be made later if the owners were wrong in withdrawing the vessel.

The arbitrators found in terms that "the seventh instalment of the hire was due on April 12" (a Sunday). Yet they held that "in point of law" the hire was due on April 10, the Friday. Both they and the judge found in favour of the owners that the charterers were in default by not paying on the Friday so that the owners were entitled to withdraw the vessel on the Monday.

That raised a point of much practical importance. Under the contract the hire was to be paid "punctually" into an account at a bank. That could not be done on the due date—because banks were closed. They were also closed on the Saturday. Was it the charterers' duty to make payment on the Friday? Mr Lloyd had so conceded before the court; and so had Mr Staughton in *The Georgios C* ([1971] 1 QB 488). His Lordship knew that a concession made by counsel in one case and accepted by the court was often treated as law in the next; but he had found no authority to support that concession except a passage in *Halsbury Laws*. Such authority as his Lordship had found suggested that payment could validly be made on the Monday.

The word "punctual" had to be construed strictly. It meant payment on the very day. But if payment could not be made on the very day, because the banks were closed, what was the position? In the parallel case of the courts of law, when anything was to be done on a Sunday, or the last day was a Sunday, when the court offices were closed, it was done in time if done on the next day on which the offices were open. That was the position not only under the Rules of the Supreme Court but in authorities going back to 1862.

If such was the rule when the court offices were closed, it should be the same when the banks were closed. There should be a definite rule throughout the law as to the effect of closure of offices, so that people should know where they stood. All the more so, where, as here, the failure to make punctual payment exposed the party to grievous consequences. That was also the view of some businessmen, such as the owners' agent in *The Brimnes* ([1973] 1 WLR 386, 395).

Another important point was the time at which the payment took place when made by a "payment order" under the London currency settlement scheme. When the receiving bank received it? Or when (after it was "processed") it was credited to the customer's account?

The judge appeared to have held that the hire was not paid when the payment order was handed over the FNC counter but only after it had been "processed" and actually credited by FNC to the account nominated by the owners. So he thought the charterers would have been in default even if the payment order had been delivered to FNC just before the close of business on the Friday because the processing would not be done until the bank opened on the Monday. That would indeed be astonishing.

What did "processing" entail? The arbitrators found that FNC would normally take up to 24 hours to process a payment order to the final stage of crediting a customer's account; but that they would do it more quickly if specially asked by customers and would be prepared to give favoured customers special facilities by way of advance or loan before "processing" was completed.

That showed that "processing" was a piece of mechanism inside the bank. Its speed should not affect the legal position of the parties making or receiving payment. Parties in business must know where they stood. The paying bank was the agent of its customer to make the payment; the receiving bank was the agent of its customer to receive it. The banks themselves regarded the "payment order" as equivalent to cash; the arbitrators so found. If the paying bank had sent actual currency, the payment would be made when it was handed over the counter and accepted by the receiving bank without objection. So also with the payment order. It was equivalent to cash paid over to the receiving bank and, if accepted without objection, it was equivalent to its customer himself accepting cash without objection.

As the hire was due on the Sunday and the charterers had not paid on the Friday, they were one day late when they paid on the Monday. The owners knew on the Monday morning that the charterers had not paid on the Friday; but they did

Bernard Levin

Two women who stood up to the union bullies

The case of the dismissed "Ferrybridge Six"—the Central Electricity Generating Board thought it would be more convenient if they were sacked; because they belonged to the "wrong" union—rightly received a good deal of attention. But the Ferrybridge case became something of a national spectacle because what was involved was obviously of national importance. It involved a nationalized industry; the victimization was exceptionally unjust in that the men *were* members of a union; it was the first really big test of the new legislation on the closed shop; and in Mr Paul Nicholson the victims had a spokesman of considerable eloquence, together with an ability to ensure that the case was kept in public view.

There be of them, then, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported. But some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them. And just such a case has come my way, reported at length in the *Andover Advertiser* but so far drawing no national attention at all. And since, in my view, it has a significance as wide, though not quite the same, as the Ferrybridge case, I think it deserves such attention today.

An Andover printing firm, called Philip & Tacey, had employed a Mrs Peters since late in 1972; it had also employed her daughter, Mrs Tarrant, since the previous year. Both women, the company states, were good workers. Mrs Tarrant had joined the appropriate union (Sogat) on taking up employment with the firm, but Mrs Peters had not, and after a time she was the only non-union worker in her trade at the firm; under the 1971 Industrial Relations Act, of course, she could not be compelled to join. The head of the Sogat branch at Philip & Tacey went to see Mrs Peters: "I told her", he says, "the shop floor workers were upset about her not joining the union and I would see her in 14 days' time to see if she had changed her mind". (I particularly like the bit about the brothers being upset—I bet they could hardly bear to drink their tea, let alone play cards, because of the constant, gnawing pain of a non-unionist on the premises.)

Mrs Peters was still unwilling to join, though from the details of the case it seems that she might well have been willing to do so in time, had it not been for what followed. What followed first was a decision by the Sogat members at the works (how easily that phrase "by the Sogat members" trips out, and how very probable it is that "a small but well-placed clique among the Sogat members" would be a more accurate description!) to declare Mrs Peters' work "black". (Later, strike action was planned, but the union's national officers insisted that it be abandoned.) Next came what is now quite customary in such cases. Mrs Peters was shunned by many of her fellow-workers; having no work to do, she was obliged to sit about doing nothing (which has not, I believe been an absolutely unique occurrence in the case of Sogat members, though the inactivity has not usually been brought about in this fashion), and a campaign of harassment began. Mrs Tarrant having by now resigned from the union because of its treatment of her mother, the campaign was directed against them both. Signs appeared, reading "Scabs get out", and "This way to the scab's chair".

> 'The rot begins when the many are afraid to stand firm against what they do not themselves approve of'

Mrs Peters described the behaviour of some of her fellow-workers. It was, she said:

> very rude and very embarrassing. Members would sprawl across the cloakroom floor; legs would be raised to trip us up. Locker doors would be pulled out so that we would walk into them. Doors were being slammed in our face.

Significantly, Mrs Peters adds that "it wasn't everybody who did it, but there were quite a few who did—two in particular". There always are a few, of course, and they are often no more than a few; the rot begins when the many are afraid to stand firm against what they do not themselves approve of. And that rot has now gone far.

As perhaps ought to have been expected, even by those in charge of the Sogat branch at Philip & Tacey, this kind of behaviour did not do much to help persuade Mrs Peters that in joining the union she would be taking her place in the ranks of a body devoted to the rights of man, the upward march of civilization, and the brotherhood and sisterhood of all working people. It was, as she put it, Sogat which opened her eyes to the methods employed by unions. She was, she said, "opposed to bullying, strong-arm tactics and the like" and even believed "in a fair day's work for a fair day's pay".

Well, naturally, holding such sentiments, she had to go though it has to be said that Philip & Tacey behaved better than the Central Electricity Generating Board. When the present Government announced that it was going to sweep away the protection that the 1971 Act offered to people like Mrs Peters and firms like Philip & Tacey, Mrs Peters' employers explained the situation to the two women and urged them to join the union. They still declined ("I just couldn't find myself able", said Mrs Peters, "to join people who could behave in such an inhumane way"), but the firm still stood by them. Only when, the Labour Government's legislation having swept away the right of an *employee* not to belong to a union, a closed shop agreement was forced on the firm, did they dismiss Mrs Peters and Mrs Tarrant, and even then only after a final attempt to persuade them to join.

Mrs Peters and Mrs Tarrant appealed to the Industrial Tribunal, and a fortnight ago it delivered its ruling. This, unlike the Tribunal in the Ferrybridge case, did not adopt a position of hostility to the victims; it ruled, for instance, that the behaviour they experienced from some of their fellow-workers was "beastly". But the Tribunal's hands were tied by the law; it declared that Mrs Peters and her daughter did not have those "reasonable grounds" laid down by the Act for refusal to join a union; and it must be emphasized here that if the amending legislation at present going through Parliament is passed, not even "reasonable grounds" will be allowed, for that provision is being deleted by Mr Foot. Mrs Peters and Mrs Tarrant are appealing against the decision, as are the Ferrybridge men; no doubt if either party wins, let alone both, the Government will hastily bring in further legislation to ensure that no such appeals are in future allowed, or—perhaps to make quite sure—that industrial tribunals are not permitted to find that anyone has been unfairly dismissed.

As far as I am aware, the case of these two women has been reported nowhere, except in their local newspaper, until today. And indeed, why should it have been? What happened to them is happening 50 times a day, in one form or another, up and down the country, and will happen more, rather than less, as time goes by. The two women have not lost their lives, only their livelihoods; nothing has happened to shake the belief by this Government that the correct way to cure an unfitness to have powe more of it to those u even less. True, I pose that the Martyrs imagined were suffering so th later trade unions the place of the e the oppressors o people, but what c do not suppose, those who founded Party had as their t the gangster polit Michael Foot. Bu the point to which I tion in reporting remark that not all workers had joined paign against her daughter; for wrong it only needs a doers, if the many to oppose them. A along Labour's ba in the House of Co deny, if you can, th pattern is at work after that, try the s Labour's front bench if you have the sto go and read all Labour Party's pr "Charter of Hume launched for disc week with the back Shirley Williams Attorney-General, n

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Why is the West backing a loser in the Sahara?

The official ending of Spanish sovereignty over the Western Sahara tomorrow will be a pure formality. The last Spanish troops left the territory on January 11, since when Moroccan and Mauritanian forces have been gradually establishing control in the teeth of strong resistance from the guerrillas of the Algerian-backed Polisario front, which is fighting for independence.

King Hassan of Morocco has twice accused Algeria of intervening directly in the conflict. Algeria has so far denied it, but continues to proclaim her conviction that self-determination for the Sahrawi people is a prerequisite for any settlement. Her latest diplomatic success has been a recommendation of the decolonization committee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) that the Polisario should be recognized as the legitimate representative of the Schrawis. Morocco has threatened to walk out of the OAU if this happens.

But the most dangerous element in the situation is the obvious commitment of the two superpowers to opposite sides. Algeria gets most of her weapons from the Soviet Union—notably her 206 combat aircraft (including 30 Mig23s, 35 MiG 21s, 70 MiG 17s and 25 MiG 15s), her surface-to-surface Frog missiles and, it is believed, ground-to-air Sam 7 missiles. Most of her 400 tanks are also Russian-built, although she also has some French AMX 13s. (Libya, which has put her aircraft at Algeria's disposal, has 92 Mirage fighters.) In the past few weeks a number of Air France flights to Algiers have been cancelled because the airport of Dar el Beida was closed to allow the landing of giant Antonov transport planes—the familiar vehicles of a Soviet weapons airlift—which may or may not have been in transit to Angola.

On the other side, Morocco has bought most of her 200 tanks in the West (including a secret delivery of 50 rushed in from France in late December), although she, too, has a number of Russian tanks. Her air force is mainly of French origin (24 Mirage 5s and 24 Magisters, but also 12 MiG 17s and a number of Northrop F5s). According to French sources, Morocco placed a further order for as many as 75 Mirage F1s early this year

Of more immediate significance may be the announcement in Washington last Sunday that the United States administration had decided to sell Morocco a squadron of 24F-5E jet fighters for £60m. State Department officials said that the sale—not yet concluded—had been negotiated over the past two years and was not a result of current tensions over the Sahara. But, they added, consideration had been given to the idea of holding up the sale because of the conflict. This had been rejected because "failure to go ahead with the

King Hassan: accusations

sale would have indicated decreased support by Washington for Hassan, whose government relies primarily on the United States for military help". Algeria's position as "a major recipient of Soviet armaments" was given as a reason for this. "We will do our best to head off a clash between Algeria and Morocco, but if it goes to war I'd think there is no question of our sympathies with the Moroccans", a high American official was quoted as saying.

Morocco, unlike Algeria, has no oil revenues. Where is she getting the money from to pay for all these weapons? There are strong indications that Saudi Arabia, still America's chief supporter in the Arab world, is helping generously. Last November it was Saudi Arabia that helped to persuade Spain to yield to Moroccan pressure, by promising to make up Spanish oil and natural gas supplies which Algeria had threatened to cut off. The shortfall in oil might not have been difficult to make up but supplies of gas, vital to the Barcelona area, would probably have been much trickier.

Few Arab states have supported Algeria on the Sahara issue—the main exceptions being Libya, South Yemen and Syria. But support has come from North Vietnam in the person of General Giap, widely regarded as the world's leading expert on guerrilla warfare. He visited Algiers early in January and had talks with Polisario leaders, in which he is known to have discussed their strategy. The movement's highly successful tactics against Moroccan troops in recent weeks may owe something to his advice.

Algeria, which played a leading role in the drive for recognition of the MPLA government in Angola, has also been rewarded with support on the Sahara issue from some black African states—as is shown by the vote of the OAU decolonization committee. Morocco's action is distasteful in principle to the OAU, one of whose cardinal tenets is that the frontiers established by colonialism in Africa should be respected.

Perhaps most surprising is the position of the French government, which has come out on the Moroccan side in spite of its long-standing policy of trying to maintain a balance of power in North Africa and to heal the deep wounds left on both sides by the Franco-Algerian war. Considerable progress had been made towards achieving this by the time of President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Algeria last spring, but since then relations have steadily deteriorated. Algeria has complained that France is making no effort to correct the increasing imbalance in her favour in bilateral trade, and has also repeatedly protested at the treatment of her nationals living in France as immigrant workers. Dozens of these have been murdered and bombs are frequently planted in front of Algerian consulates, but the culprits are seldom arrested. Many of them are believed to be "harkis" (Algerians who fought on the French side in the war of independence) or veterans of the OAS. Lately a group of saboteurs was arrested in Algiers itself after planting a bomb in the offices of the newspaper *El Moudjahid*.

Already infuriated by these incidents, Algeria's leaders have been infuriated by France's recent gestures of support for Morocco—both the arms supplies and the invitation to King Hassan to visit Paris this spring, whereas President Boumedienne has heard no more of the invitation formally offered to him by M Giscard d'Estaing in Algiers last April.

M Giscard d'Estaing explains his attitude by arguing that the Sahrawi population (believed to number about 80,000) is not large enough to make a viable state. This argument comes strangely from a man who has just promised independence to Djibouti (population 81,000) and has encouraged Mayotte (population 17,000) to secede from the Comoro Islands as an isolated French dependency.

Certainly not all French officials are happy about their President's policy, and one hopes that there may be second thoughts in Washington as well. The policy of automatically backing the opposite side to the Russians has already backfired on America in more than one area of the world. The Russians, after all, like to back winners. Algeria's military and economic strength make her a likely winner in any full-scale war with Morocco, and Polisario has a considerably stronger moral case than did the MPLA in Angola. What advantage can there be to the West in backing a loser who is clearly in the wrong?

Francis Ghilès and Edward Mortimer

Francis Ghilès is financial editor of *City Press* and a frequent writer and broadcaster on North African affairs.

Devolution is risky but not as dangerous for Britain as doing nothing

After the recent torrent of words on devolution, written and spoken, are we any nearer an acceptable formula? Commenting on the four days of debate in the Commons, *The Times*, in a leading article, identified the quest as an undertaking made necessary by the situation in Scotland and observed that the debate had principally served to bring all the doubts and confusion into the open.

In Scotland a widespread feeling has developed that parliamentary government should be brought closer. It is clear from opinion polls that the very large majority of people in Scotland wish to remain part of Britain and do not share the Scottish National Party's objective of making Scotland an independent country. But if nothing is done to devolve some of the powers now exercised at Westminster, more Scots may resort to the extreme policy leading dangerously towards breaking up Britain.

The greatest paradox of current Scottish politics is that the majority of those who have been supporting the SNP do not want independent status for Scotland, whereas that has been the goal proclaimed by the SNP leadership for years. Support has been forthcoming for other reasons, the most compelling perhaps being that the party's existence and recent success are concentrating the Government's attention on Scotland's problems and causing more action beneficial to Scotland to be taken more swiftly. The SNP are attracting votes as an apparently successful pressure group for Scotland rather than as the standard bearers for independence.

Although the hierarchy at the moment find it convenient to blur the difference between devolution and independence, the SNP's objective is no secret. It is complete independence for Scotland within the Commonwealth. The monarchy is to be retained, so enabling the leadership to obscure the main issue by contending that the "Kingdom" would not be split.

That policy is the antithesis of devolution. It is dividing Britain into more than one country, instead of spreading domestic powers and functions within a single country.

Critics of devolution proposals who point out that they will not satisfy the nationalists have missed the point. Nothing will satisfy them short of breaking up Britain. The purpose of such proposals is to meet the aspirations of the majority of reasonable people in Scotland, not to appease the SNP.

It is not surprising that the restlessness in Scotland should overshadow other factors in the devolution debates (the speakers list in the Lords read like the casualty roll after Flodden). Unlike Wales, which has until fairly recently been administered jointly with England by the same departments, Scotland has had separate departments in the Scottish Office carrying out in Edinburgh functions devolved from Whitehall. The Secretary of State for Scotland, with his ministers, exercises virtually all the domestic functions of government except central control in trade, industry, finance and social security. Scotland also has her own system of law and separate Acts of Parliament in most of the devolved area.

What is lacking is devolution of parliamentary supervision. There are limited opportunities at present for Scottish ministers to account for their stewardship to Parliament at Westminster. Since early in the century the machinery of the Scottish Grand Committee and Scottish Standing Committees has evolved and has been used for considering Scottish Bills and topics. The system has enabled MPs representing Scottish constituencies to discuss Scottish affairs in the morning and United Kingdom business in the afternoon and evening. But it is no longer suitable and must be regarded as obsolete. Nor is it able to cope with the heavy burden of increased business which Parliament now accepts.

Natrually general support has been growing in Scotland for a body which would meet in Edinburgh and could devote more time to Scottish affairs because it would not consist of busy Westminster MPs.

There are many advantages in continuing the integrated economy which Britain has enjoyed for more than two centuries. Scottish firms appear to be almost unanimous in this view. With a population of five million Scotland could not, as a small separate economic unit, expect to be able to retain the present diversity in engineering and manufacturing industries and the number of jobs they provide. For example the markets for many of the capital goods produced in Scotland are in the midlands of England. Comparison with Norway and Denmark demonstrates the concentration on certain agrarian activities which have been necessary there. Accordingly in any devolution scheme overall financial and economic control must remain with central government and the Chancellor. This is recognized in the Government's White Paper proposals.

Where they have gone astray is in the allocation of other functions between central government and the proposed Scottish Assembly. By retaining certain subjects, for example, agriculture, police and electricity, with the Secretary of State, the White Paper is preparing an arena for conflict with the Assembly's executive group. Furthermore the suggested vetoes to be used by central government for reasons of either policy or *ultra vires* are added aggravations. It would be better to have a reserve power for policy matters on the understanding it would seldom, if ever, be used; and to allow the courts to decide on *vires*.

The Government will be well advised to alter drastically their proposals. No good reason has yet been given for not allowing the Assembly to deal with all the subjects already devolved administratively to the Scottish Office. These have been sifted and collected over the years as suitable without creating difficulties for the normal supervision of the United Kingdom economy. The proposed arrangement for two executive groups, one headed by the Secretary of State, is also bound to cause trouble. The choice should still be open to the Government whether to give the Assembly a wide range of subjects, but not an executive of its own, or to give it executive powers over a restricted area.

It must be recognized beforehand that the SNP will continually be calling for more powers for the Assembly in all circumstances and that they will not want the new arrangements to work smoothly, whatever they are. Their interest will be in breakdowns creating pressure towards independence. The Government should certainly reconsider proportional representation for the Assembly. It need not affect the methods of election to Westminster, as the Northern Ireland precedent has shown. The overriding reason for this is to avoid a situation in which the SNP gained a majority, although by a minority vote, and were then responsible for Scotland being separated from the rest of Britain against the wishes of the majority.

Many who are opposed to any form of devolution have a respectable anxiety that the establishment of an Assembly will inevitably mean the first slide down the slippery slope to disintegration. That is undoubtedly a risk, but it must be taken. To do nothing is to run at least as dangerous a risk.

Any new constitutional arrangements need cence, if not t approval, of Englis understandable fear problem areas like can be allayed. Alt decisions will be ta land after devolutio likely that a larger of UK funds will be Scotland than at most subsidy and penditure fields, Sc benefits by receivin head of population where in recognitio geographical or oti ties. In particular t port grant system h years contained a bonus from the Ex Scotland. The b system now pro enable the Assembl priorities in spendi total is unlikely to as Secretaries of been able to secure Scotland's case at t in particular fields. the SNP will claim pendence would bri revenues. But there derables there, suc land's independenc the limited period shore oil is exhaust

Representation a ster is another m affecting England. brandon Commissi mended reduction present number seats and this sho sidered in due cours tion must also be av Scottish MPs are on Bills affecting o and Wales while n Scottish Bills becau being dealt with in It should not be to settle number voting rules when and functions of Assembly have bee

Lord

The author was State for Scotland.

It seems everything is obscene these days

Continuing our occasional series on new words and new meanings.

In his hilarious evidence at the *Inside Linda Lovelace* obscenity trial, Johnny Speight, begetter of Alf Garnett, declared upon oath that he found Hitler's *Mein Kampf* obscene. At first hearing it was a surprising adjective to use about that most unread and unreadable of best-sellers. The anthologists are hard put to it to select a single memorable quotation from *Mein Kampf* to include in their dictionaries of modern quotations. Of course, determined obscenity-hounds can sniff out obscenity in every book yet written except the telephone directory. But until now it had been supposed that *Mein Kampf* ran the telephone directory close, with its boring and repetititive rambling rubbish about racial purity. If prudish Adolf had put in a bit of obscenity he might have made his book more entertaining; but he would have outraged his deeply respectable petit bourgeois nature and his tight sexual repressions.

Presumably what Johnny Speight meant was that *Mein Kampf*, by signposting for those few who had the patience to read it the road to world war and genocide, was an evil, hateful, and morally outrageous book, perhaps the most abominable ever written: and quite right, too. What has happened is that the scope of *obscene* has been rapidly extended in the past few years from its once narrow meaning connected with lewdity and sexual indecency to embrace anything that is morally offensive.

The present legal definition fails because it relies upon two-value words almost as slippery as *obscene* itself: deprave and corrupt. And the very search for such a definition is intrinsically a wild goose chase, if you will pardon the obscenity. In monolithic societies of the past with generally accepted Christian moral values people knew where they were, more or less. In today's fragmented and divided society one man's obscenity is another man's mild slang, is another man's fuddy-duddy circumlocution. The only hope of a watertight legal definition of obscenity is one that uses descriptive words, such as "children" or "animals", instead of emotive value words about which there can be no general agreement.

There are people today who find nothing *obscene* in anything to do with their sexual and excretory parts and functions. So the strong word has been extended to describe things like poverty and hunger that modern sensibility finds more offensive than sexual aberration. And so we get the pornography or obscenity of violence; and we find people saying "the debate was almost obscene in its irresponsibility", or "*Mein Kampf* is obscene"; and we understand what they are getting at.

This extension and consequent blunting of *obscene's* cutting edge is linguistically a pity; as is any such process that makes an ori word less precise *quently less useful* such vogue words and political argu have short, furious they are driven out for an even mo word of condemnat a devaluation of w as of currency. thing evil is *obsc* no particular sti obscenity. When t uses words with m precision has pas new fashion, th *obscene* can revert nal modest meanin there is any use le to describe what and offensive to m

Philip

The Times Diary

A question of the royal flush

Concorde is not the only British product suspect on environmental grounds across the Atlantic. The Canadian Government have been turning up their noses at the prospect of a visit from a slower but no less glamorous means of transport—the Royal Yacht Britannia.

The Queen is due to sail up the St Lawrence River in the yacht to open the Montreal Olympics on July 17. The Britannia has lavatories which flush directly into the water beneath them, and Canadian anti-pollution regulations forbid the release of raw sewage—even raw royal sewage—into the river.

The Canadians declined to make an exception to the rule for the Queen. "These are the regulations and all ships entering the St Lawrence abide by them", said a spokesman at the Transport Department in Ottawa.

In long negotiations between London and Ottawa, Buckingham Palace turned down two proposals from the Canadians. The first was to convert the yacht's water tanks for the storage of sewage, and it is no surprise that this was rejected. Nor did the Queen's advisers take to the idea of her using the push-button chemical lavatories which other ships normally use at Montreal. One of these was flown to London for test, but found not to meet the exacting standards of royalty.

Few who study these matters will be surprised to learn that the solution finally reached is the most expensive. New tanks are to be built into the royal yacht to accommodate the sewage, and these will be emptied by lighter. The conversion work is now being carried out in Portsmouth.

"Yes, it will be fairly expensive", a Royal Navy spokesman confirmed yesterday. "But everything's expensive these days."

Star-struck

Robert Temple is a young American author who thinks that a remote West African tribe has been in contact with a race of amphibious beings from another planet. Yesterday he explained his theories to an invited audience of astronomers, astrologers, anthropologists, historians, rocket engineers and Patrick Moore at the Royal Society of Arts, to coincide with the publication of his book *The Sirius Mystery*

Temple has spent eight years on research to back up his premise that the Dogon tribe of Mali know a remarkable amount about Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, and that their folklore suggests that once upon a time the Sirians dropped in to see them.

Professor John Taylor of King's College, London, introduced Temple, and apologized for not being able to bring along a couple of Sirians. Taylor thought that there could be millions of other civilizations out there in the void, but most of them were probably too intelligent to want to get in touch with us.

With grapefruit in hand to illustrate the size of the star in question, Temple showed slides of Dogon tribesmen and their apparently accurate drawings of the orbit of Sirius B, a tiny adjacent star which can only be seen by powerful telescope, which the tribesmen do not have.

An enthusiastic woman astrologer thought the bit about the amphibious creatures was highly likely: "Sirius is currently in the sign of Cancer, which has very fishy imagery", she told Temple to his obvious pleasure. An archaeologist, though said that spaceships were much more likely to land in Saudi Arabia. The man from the publishers thought it was fascinating, but unlikely to reach the best-selling class of their other author Edward Heath, who has now sold 80,000 copies of *Sailing*.

A scream

Modern art is not all firebricks. At the Whitechapel Art Gallery the experimental area upstairs is now given over to a walled-off pyramid made of pegboard. On the stairs are exhibited prints produced by an office colour-copying machine, and in a room at the foot of the stairs are a series of photographs of people with outstretched arms showing how long they think a yard is.

People approach the gallery with a mixture of curiosity and suspicion. Well they might, for in the foyer there is a machine which screams at varying intensity according to how tightly two balls attached to it by wires are squeezed, and a pot of plastic daffodils which wilt whenever anyone approaches.

In the darkened main hall seven ghostly corpes, in ghostly pink suits and green shoes, gently shrink and reinflate to an accompaniment of sepulchral music.

> 1974 CORRECTION:
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> INSTEAD OF...WHIRL OF SHIRTS....CORRECTING SHIRTS TO SKIRTS.
>
> REUTER JWE/JAB

Party time at Reuters.

Reactions, yesterday, were anything but angry, although a reader reminds me that there was an outcry similar to that which the Tate has aroused when the Elgin marbles were bought for the nation in 1816. The MP for Coventry claimed the £35,000 for his constituents "rather than give such a sum for a collection of old broken arms, legs and shoulders", proving that British suspicion of artistic values has a long history.

So civil

The small panelled House of Lords committee room, its walls covered with large formal royal portraits and paintings of Coronations, has been an appropriate setting for the Ampthill barony hearing. The atmosphere throughout has been one of calm elegance, so that it was sometimes difficult to believe that the dispute being heard was the continuation of a bitter family feud which has lasted for more than 50 years.

The two claimants to the peerage, half-brothers Geoffrey and John, sit on separate sides of the packed room, with their respective entourages behind their solicitors and counsel. Each group ignores the other as they and their families have for half a century.

John, a serious looking young man of 25, sits with his sister Georgiana, and his aunt and uncle (sister and brother of the late third Baron Ampthill). Geoffrey, the original Russell baby, sits with his elegant French wife, Elisabeth, and his son and heir from a first marriage. Both claimants wear similar pin-striped listen to the prou passively.

Four of the mine ing the case are la they dominate the from the comm

The five *non-la* say very little, altho the end of the h Beswick was playi part. Two of them, and the Earl of Li not uttered a s throughout the cas

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LIKELY TO RUN INTO TROUBLE

At the time of the Conservative leadership contest the question of incomes policy was one of the most important issues. Those who supported incomes policies tended to support Mr Heath and those who were opposed to them tended to support Mrs Thatcher. Since she became leader Mrs Thatcher has gradually given herself time to develop the new Conservative approach towards the trade unions and incomes policy. Her statement on incomes policy on the *Panorama* interview with Mr Robin Day last Monday night is therefore very interesting, and deserves further examination. It is all the more interesting as the Conservative Party is preparing to launch its new approach to the trade unions.

Mrs Thatcher on *Panorama* stated first of all that she was absolutely against a compulsory incomes policy". She then went on to say in reply to further questions that she thought we do need to have "some kind of policies for incomes", which she also twice described as "a general policy for incomes". She criticized the Government's incomes policy because of its failure to take account of differentials and because it had no productivity element. She said that without a "productivity factor . . . you're bound to run into trouble". It seems therefore that her idea of a general incomes policy is that it should be voluntary, but that it should be sufficiently explicit and detailed to deal with both differentials and productivity.

Mr Day then pressed Mrs Thatcher on the inevitable question whether the trade unions could be expected to operate a voluntary incomes policy with a Conservative government; Mrs Thatcher took the line that the trade unions and the CBI regarded it as their duty to try to work with any government. He also asked her what there was in her policies which could lead the trade unions to enter into this sort of agreement; her reply came down to saying that both the Conservative government and the trade unions would be interested in creating a higher standard of living and a flourishing industry in Britain.

Many Conservatives will be uneasy at Mrs Thatcher going as far as she did in her commitment to voluntary incomes policy, while other Conservatives, including some members of the Shadow Cabinet, may see it as a victory for common sense, and as a sign that the influence of Sir Keith Joseph's economic thinking has waned further. The real difficulty, however, arises in the only half answered question about the basis of the proposed bargain with the unions.

The Conservatives are very reasonably determined to create a new relationship with the unions and to that end they are accepting the trade union legislation passed by the Labour Government. This apparently even includes an acceptance of Mr Foot's 1975 Bill to remove the safeguards in the 1974 Act, so far as closed shops are concerned, but that would be such a cowardly retreat from the Conservative position that it can hardly be intended. The general policy of better relations with the trade unions is, however, clearly right; they do not want another February, 1974.

Yet a friendlier relationship with the trade unions is no more than the trade unions expect anyway. It does not constitute the concession of substantial policy which would be needed to balance trade union support for an incomes policy. It is hard to see what such a concession could be. Mr Heath bought partial trade union consent to his incomes policy with growth, or perhaps one should say with inflation. That can hardly be repeated.

Without the basis for a bargain, a voluntary incomes policy will not be a real option for a future Conservative government when they first come to power. It would be better for the Conservative Party to rely on control of inflation by general demand management, without excluding the possibility that an incomes policy of one sort or another might become desirable or feasible later in the administration. Mrs Thatcher is right to want to get on to better terms with the unions, but she has moved further and faster on incomes policy than the unions, or some people in her own party, will be keen to follow. It is no good relying on a policy which will either not be obtainable, or will have to be bought at too high a price. It is the less wise as it is monetary policy and not incomes policy which determines the rate of inflation.

IT WOULD BE WRONG TO STOP THIS VISIT

The British policy of recognizing governments which are in reasonably effective control of a country is long established and generally accepted. Often a change of government will seem very much for the worse but even those who most deplore the change will admit that withholding recognition out of political distaste serves no end; the necessary international traffic depends upon diplomatic missions.

Where distaste will burst out into political protest is when an invitation is extended to a head of state, for such an invitation to seem to imply—quite rightly—a degree of mutual advantage or friendship between the host and guest countries. Such is the case with the invitation to President Geisel of Brazil. The national executive committee of the Labour Party wants it cancelled even though the invitation is a reciprocal one for the Queen's visit to Brazil in 1968 when she was warmly received. Such repugnance may be felt towards the government of a country or towards the particular individual invited. It is not a new phenomenon in Britain and no foreign secretary would think of flouting it, or would think that Britain's relations with another country would be furthered by a state visit that was likely to meet insistent and widespread public protest. In this case however Mr Callaghan has himself made the case against the Labour Party's national executive and has backed it with the first-hand experience of his own under-secretary Mr Rowlands. It is a well-founded case and the visit should go ahead despite the vote in the national executive.

To instance Brazil's size and importance in the Latin American context or to point to the phenomenal economic growth over more than a decade of authoritarian rule, which makes of Brazil an important trading partner for Britain, would not answer objections that are primarily moral. It may be admitted that such grounds for objection—notably in the torture of political prisoners of the left—have been supported by evidence in the past and may still exist. They are not to be overlooked. Nevertheless a fair judgment must ask whether or not political freedom is growing; whether protest within the country can make itself heard, and whether in consequence a visit by President Geisel to this country would be a means of welcoming and promoting such change.

Brazil has an opposition party and a critical press. Neither enjoys the full freedom of a democratic political system but both are striving with some success towards gaining it. On the point of human rights Mr Rowlands finds Brazil to be improving and, what is important, to be aware of its failings. In this respect the Latin American scene is not a very happy one. Brazil can only be fairly judged in that context and the conclusion is one that must support the letter on this page from the Brazilian Ambassador: that the country is moving in a direction that the Labour Party can approve and ought to encourage. In particular President Geisel has shown that his own intentions are serious and his rule has been responsive to criticisms from abroad.

THE PRESS, THE ARMY AND ULSTER

A report in *The Times* earlier this week referred to two documents from army sources critical of press coverage in Northern Ireland. It is not surprising that there should be such criticism because the security authorities and the press have essentially different tasks in circumstances that have no precedent within the United Kingdom in recent times. In conditions of near civil war the army are engaged in a conflict that is both military and ideological. Because they are fighting urban terrorists who are achieving their political ends without scruple or regard for the democratic wishes of the people of Northern Ireland, and in the process have put civilized life in jeopardy in Northern Ireland and elsewhere in the United Kingdom, there is an unqualified vital interest in the army's success in this struggle. Yet that success cannot be obtained without the sustained support of public opinion. So the security authorities are engaged in a propaganda war which it is in the national interest that they should win.

The press, however, while serving the general national interest, have different responsibilities. A newspaper that is critic will accept that the army must wage a propaganda war but a newspaper that believes its principles will have to express itself in the conduct of the war. Its task is to see that readers are informed as fully and clearly as possible. That includes not merely the events on the ground but the nature of the conflict, political attitudes on the issues, the relationship of the army to the local community and the changing strength of the organization itself. The more complete and accurate the picture, the more adequately the task is performed.

Sometimes that will suit the security authorities, sometimes not. But it would be facile to suggest that criticism of the press in Northern Ireland arises solely from the natural tension between the roles of the army and the journalist. There have been failings on both sides. The Secretary of State for Defence has agreed that the use of false press cards by soldiers in Ulster puts genuine journalists in danger and these will not be used again. Sometimes the security authorities are dismayed by the refusal of journalists to take official statements at face value. But they have a justifiable complaint when journalists then give uncritical treatment to statements from the IRA. And any justifiable complaints have more than justifiable emotion behind them when men are being killed keeping terror in check.

That comes sometimes from acting as the automatic and undiscriminating transmitter of anything that is deemed to be newsworthy, sometimes from the perennial danger of the journalist getting too close to his sources of information so that he comes to regard them as his clients rather than his contacts and sometimes from a personal bias against the forces of authority whoever and wherever they may be. All these failings have appeared in some of the press coverage of Northern Ireland, though other journalists are also very conscious of the difficult conditions in which everyone in Northern Ireland has to operate. In addition, there has been the temptation, to which television is particularly subject because of the very nature of the medium, to concentrate on the dramatic episode rather than presenting the picture in context.

But while it is an error, public and professional, for newspapers and broadcasters to treat IRA statements in such a way as to serve their propaganda purposes, it would be a denial of the proper function of the press to refuse to speak to the IRA at all. Nor is there any reason to suppose that a more fully informed public is more likely to take a tolerant view of the IRA. Experience suggests quite the contrary. In the early days of the troubles in Northern Ireland there was a tendency in some quarters—for which the press must take its share of the blame—to underestimate IRA penetration of civil rights protest. It was the spread of more accurate information that removed that misapprehension. To limit the source of information by asking the press to impose restraints upon itself going beyond proper professional discipline would be to seek a short-term advantage at the cost of a long-term loss.

It would also be a loss if the press were to be inhibited from performing that other part of its function: to provide a check against the use of unjustifiable means in a good cause. Every terrorist organization alleges that its people are tortured. The scrutiny of the Press as well as the actions of the authorities have denied the IRA the benefit of that propaganda weapon.

Imprisoned in Russia

From Dr B. L. Butterworth and others

The Government of the USSR in recent days reiterated their adherence to the principles of detente and in particular to the spirit of the Helsinki Agreement. They may have overlooked the fate of Anatoly Malkin and we are hoping for the opportunity of your columns to draw attention to his plight.

Anatoly Malkin was a third year mathematics student at Moscow University when he applied for an exit visa to Israel in July 1974. As a result he was expelled from the university and accordingly became liable for military service. No exit visa can be granted for a minimum of five years after completion of service for security reasons. By November 1974 Mr Malkin had renounced Soviet citizenship, had been granted Israeli citizenship, and was accordingly unable to take the soldier's oath. In the same month he wrote to the Soviet Army Registration Board informing them of his position.

In May 1975 he was arrested and on August 26, 1975 he was tried for evasion of conscription and sentenced to the maximum penalty of three years imprisonment. Conviction and sentence were affirmed by the Moscow Court of Appeals on October 10, 1975.

May we as students, professionals and academics request the Soviet authorities to respect the spirit of détente and their undertakings to the Western governments, and call upon those governments to exercise their influence to obtain his release as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
Brian Butterworth, B. Chain, L. A. Collins, A. H. Cook, FRS, Robin Ellison, A. Hewish, FRS, B. D. Josephson, FRS, Otto Kahn-Freund, A. Klug, H. L. Kornberg, FRS, S. Morag, M. F. Perutz, Brian Pippard, FRS, R. A. Raphael, FRS, Martin Ryll, J. S. Shindler, David Shoenberg, Gerald Stanhill, John Stewart, Gordon Sutherland, FRS, David Tabor, FRS, Oliver Zangwill.
February 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Visit of Brazilian President

From the Brazilian Ambassador

Sir, An article published in the issue of February 26, under the caption: "Withdraw Brazil President's invitation", comments briefly, but inaccurately, on an interview which I maintained with Mr Alexandre Kitson, who recently presented to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party a motion adverse to the visit to this country of President Ernesto Geisel of Brazil.

The relevant points of that conversation were as follows. Firstly, I mentioned to Mr Kitson that whilst it would be inappropriate for diplomats to comment on internal squabbles of the Labour Party, it was pertinent in my judgment to bring to his attention foreign policy implications and possible misunderstandings arising from his motion. I clarified further that the invitation for the visit was an initiative of the British Labour Government, and not a suggestion, and much less a request from Brazil. I pointed out also that the target seemed the wrong one since President Geisel is making honest efforts (and is achieving considerable success) in the direction of three desirable objectives—political liberalization, improvement in income distribution and curbing violation of human rights.

I indicated finally that President Geisel, being used to democratic criticism from the Brazilian Opposition Party and the press (and sometimes from the Church), would be interested in listening to the broadest possible range of political opinion in Britain, including the radical Labour left, if the latter would wish an opportunity to express its views, with the respect due to a head of the Government of a friendly country. Though the President probably would not hear anything very different from the views, hopes and complaints that are aired in the vivacious political debate that is now taking place in the Brazilian Parliament, as well as in the press and other media—such an encounter might contribute much more to achieve the desirable objectives of democratization, social justice and respect for the human person, than the NEC motion, which is bound to create some embarrassment to the Labour Government and some perplexity, if not resentment, in Brazil. I added, somewhat wryly, that even though British democracy and social values deserve great respect, there remain sufficient flaws to counsel humility in preaching lessons to foreign governments.

This was the rather philosophical level of my discussion with Mr Kitson. It would be ridiculous to descend from that level to culinary matters, such as invitations to a presidential banquet. I certainly did not make that descent.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERTO de OLIVEIRA CAMPOS,
Brazilian Ambassador,
Brazilian Embassy,
32 Green Street, W1.
February 26.

Army and press in Ulster

From Lieut.-Colonel W. H. Sillitoe

Sir, I am the author of one of the papers you published on February 24 and described variously as "confidential army memoranda", "reports" and "Army documents".

Mine is the one you quote at greater length, and call "the colonel's report".

It is in fact a fragment of a book I hope to write on the interaction of the Army and the press in Northern Ireland. I wrote it after I left the Army and intend to publish it, but pressure of other work has prevented my doing so thus far.

You should be aware, Sir, for I am sure you would not have published your reporter's story without checking the authenticity of his material, that what I wrote was in longhand, and that it contained gaps. This should have led you to conclude that what you had was a first draft rather than a "memorandum", "report" or "document". There was nothing about it to suggest that it was regarded by me or anyone else as "confidential".

Your editing leaves much to be desired: some of the passages you omit lent force to my general points, and some of the gaps you closed really ought to have been represented by dots.

I stand by everything I wrote, and in a way I am grateful to you for obtaining on my behalf a greater number of readers than I should probably have been able to reach commercially.

But I object to your publishing my private papers without my permission, and I consider that your misrepresentation of what they are serves to confirm the criticisms I made in them of your reporter, your newspaper, and the press in general.

You are indeed "a newspaper in search of a role": I wonder if even you, Sir, know where you are going?

Yours faithfully,
WARREN SILLITOE,
London, SE11.

British fisheries

From Mr D. Laurent Giles

Sir, In his interesting letter in today's *Times* (February 25), Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mackenzie suggests that our proposed fishery and oil protection force might be manned partly by "fishermen presently on the dole".

My own observations from ships and boats in our coastal waters suggest that there are between four and six times as many foreign fishing boats at work within our proposed 200-mile limit, as there are British fishing boats.

Therefore it would seem that—if we were to declare a 200-mile limit and police it effectively—there should be no British fishermen on the dole. On the contrary, there might be a *shortage* of fishermen in this country.

That is assuming that we wish to exploit the commercial potential of one of our greatest national resources—which, to judge by today's attitudes is, alas, unlikely.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GILES,
Thornycroft, Giles & Associates Ltd,
The Embankment,
Bembridge, Isle of Wight.

Spending cuts blow to the inner city

From the Bishop of Liverpool

Sir, It has been a very bad week for the inner city. Your Home Affairs correspondent (report, February 26) showed that the provisions of the White Paper on public expenditure will reduce Home Office money for community services from £12.1m in 1970-71 (at 1975 prices) to £1m in 1979-80. Your Planning Reporter showed that the large scale investment for transport and incentives to attract industry will not be forthcoming for the dockland redevelopment in East London. If it is not, the best opportunity to upgrade the inner city since the bombing will be lost. National government gives it no priority. The money must come from normal London subventions.

Those at the greatest disadvantage in our nation live in the inner belt of all the major cities. We have built into our legislation the principle of positive discrimination, for example in educational priority areas. When you read the yardstick for determining EPAs you find that the first six factors are not to do with schools themselves. They are about housing, jobs and facilities. The problems of the inner city are interlocking.

Whether we mean what we say by priority is most sharply demonstrated in times of cutback. Help for regions which are at a disadvantage rightly continues. Merseyside is one of those regions. There must be no cutting back there. Plenty of money is around there in job creation programmes to alleviate the extreme problems of large-scale unemployment in what we hope is the short term. But tackling long-term employment problems requires more sharply aimed measures. Unemployment in the inner city in Liverpool has consistently run at double the level for Merseyside as a whole, and this has never since the war been as low as the 3 per cent which some politicians regard as acceptable. More sharply aimed measures would not blandly see London's inner city as part of the affluent south-east. Unemployment in Canning Town is running at 10 to 12 per cent. The middle East End and the inner southern ring of London do not share the affluence of the south east of England.

Optimism in the country at the moment likes to suggest that we are simply in the stop period of one of our stop-go cycles. There is little optimism for the inner city in stop-go. In stop periods the mood is so pessimistic that planners are told not to put up plans for expensive infrastructures. When go arrives the message goes round that departments are looking for projects to put money into. So we produce more hasty, short-term answers. The dockland redevelopment is a classic example. Unless, for example, a new Tube line is built, there is little chance of new industry being attracted or of the work force being able to get to other industries. Spending in the next three years would in fact be modest. The big spending would be in 1978-79-80. But plans must be committed now.

If we really regarded the inner city as the nation's priority we would make such plans and stick to them through thick and thin, stop and go. There can be no talk of national unity, of breaking down class barriers, until we do. Far from the gap betwen classes and between rich and poor narrowing, in the inner city it is widening. Divisions increase. The social, political and spiritual consequence will be immense.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LIVERPOOL,
Church House,
1 Hanover Street,
Liverpool.
February 26.

MPs and local parties

From Mr Victor Schonfield

Sir, Frank Tomney's differences with Hammersmith North Constituency Labour Party are indeed a test case, but David Wood (column: February 23) seems somewhat confused as to what is being tested.

Mr Wood claims that, once elected, an MP is freed from obligations to the local "party caucus". The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy would point out that every MP stood as the candidate of a local party caucus, and owes his or her position to this and the undertakings which it implies. The argument that voters free MPs from these undertakings by the very fact of voting for them is patently absurd.

For proof that MPs owe their position to their party we need look no further than Mr Tomney himself, who as Mr Wood admits entered Parliament (as an official Labour candidate both selected and elected by defeating the previous Labour MP) by the very route he now seeks to block. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and once we accept selection by party caucus we can hardly deny the caucus the right to select afresh.

Mr Wood proposes that the Parliamentary Labour Party should only be bound by Labour's election manifesto. He overlooks the fact that this is precisely the point at issue, in Hammersmith North as in Newham North-East. Labour Party opposition to Mr Tomney and his ilk is based on the view that major manifesto promises have been neglected (as on industrial policy, and now public expenditure) or even flouted (as on unemployment) by the Parliamentary Labour Party. The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy would point out that Mr Wood's proposal is hardly consistent with his refusing the Labour Party the practical means to make its representatives accountable and hold them to the manifesto.

Ordinary voters as well as party activists have a right to expect MPs to fulfil the undertakings on which they were elected, and not to be a law unto themselves. This is what is being tested in Hammersmith North this week.

Yours sincerely,
VICTOR SCHONFIELD, Treasurer,
Campaign for Labour Party Democracy,
26 Avondale Park Gardens, W11.
February 24.

Britain and Rhodesia

From Mr William Shepherd

Sir, Many will echo Sir Richard Dobson's view (letters, February 25) that our aim should be to secure early majority rule within a democratic framework in Rhodesia, South West Africa and South Africa.

But is he right in saying that we should now intervene, presumably militarily, when we refrained from doing this 10 years ago when our legal and moral responsibility was greater than it is today? It would be more than interesting to learn from the advocates of British military intervention in aid of Mr Smith and his followers as to how we are to achieve this objective with the lines of communication and the resources available to us.

I am concerned by Sir Richard's acceptance of Dr Vorster's loud protestations that he is the bulwark against communism; I am as much inclined to believe Dr Vorster's protestations as I am to believe Mr Brezhnev's assertions that he is the real defender of democracy. But for Dr Vorster's military intervention in Angola we might well have been able to have obtained an African Unity decision favourable to the western world.

If there is a genuine desire for African majority rule in these territories, there is in my view a strong case against any form of intervention by the British, either military or diplomatic. Neither do I think we should provide monies for the assistance of settlers in Rhodesia, who have consistently abused us and refused to accord to the Africans reasonable civic rights.

Contrary to the view of many that there may be danger of communism spreading through Africa, I believe that we will expedite the demise of communism in the wider sense by an early end to oppressive regimes. Some will sneer at the idea that moral condemnation has any effect upon ruthless totalitarian regimes such as that in the Soviet Union, but I believe that if we were to get rid of the non-communist blots, we could intensify pressures upon the Soviet.

There remains the question of whether an effective Soviet military presence can be established in these newly independent territories. I believe the fears in this direction are exaggerated. Experience has shown that both the Soviet Union and China spend a great deal of money without gaining influence or prestige. If they were to attempt a recolonization of Africa so soon upon the ending of previous colonial rule, it would, I think, be met with intense resistance by the indigenous populations. The cause of communism in Africa will be best served by trying to preserve the authority of Mr Smith and Dr Vorster.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM SHEPHERD,
77 George Street,
Portman Square.
February 25.

Anglican doctrine

From Professor B. G. Mitchell

Sir, The impression has been created by some of your correspondents that the Church of England can get along quite well with a plurality of incompatible doctrines, and by your Correspondent that this is the message of the Doctrine Commission. This would i[illegible] unattainable, or does not [illegible] There could be no Good News, because there would be no news.

The report does not, as I read it, take this line. In the section on "the Christian and the Creeds" it recommends "that the creeds should be left in the kind of doctrinal position they currently enjoy, but that 'dialogue' should be made a reality by acknowledging that free and responsible debate about their contents and about the best way to use them is not disloyal to the Christian cause". (page 42).

It is evident that the Church cannot have faith, if it has no idea what to have faith in, or hope without some conception of what is to be hoped for, or even charity without some understanding of men's material and spiritual needs. So it must be committed to some fundamental belief. Nevertheless, as the Commission realizes, no language can be wholly adequate to the expression of religious truth and tradition formulations need to be continuously rethought and reapplied. This exacting task falls largely upon academic theologians who resemble other academics in their tendency to oscillate between extremes under the influence of intellectual fashions. For this reason, as Mr Louth suggests (February 24), they are not the best people to define doctrine, but even the most extreme theories may yield valuable insights—much as the most perversely unorthodox production of [illegible] hitherto [illegible]ced [illegible]gs.

So the Commission is right in calling for "dialogue" as distinct from mere toleration of opposed standpoints, while insisting on a strong continuing tradition, to the clarifying and refining of which the radicals can make an essential contribution, although they would be powerless on their own to constitute it—somewhat as the "fringe" theatre can stimulate the central dramatic tradition but would not be an adequate substitute for it.

The tension between tradition and criticism is peculiarly characteristic of our present cultural situation (consider the Tate's predicament). It is the test of any institution today that it can recognize and contain this tension as, on the evidence of this report, the Church of England is doing.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL MITCHELL,
Oriel College,
Oxford,
February 24.

Appointment of the Auditor General

From Mr John Nott, Conservative MP for St Ives

Sir, Mr Leon Brittan in his letter of today's date (February 25) raised an important point of principle about the appointment of the Ombudsman. He suggested that Parliament should have been consulted before the executive nominated the person who is to be charged with investigating, on behalf of MPs and their constituents, the alleged maladministration of government departments.

I would like to make precisely the same point about the recent appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General, a servant of Parliament who reports to the Public Accounts Committee on the control and efficiency with which government departments disburse public funds. The new holder of this office is to be the present Second Permanent Secretary of the Treasury in charge of public expenditure.

It has, of course, been argued by the executive in the recent debate on the reports of the Public Accounts Committee that a senior Treasury official is in a unique position to understand the workings of government departments and to bring any deficiencies to the notice of Parliament. On the other hand, I would suggest that a person who has spent the whole of his recent career working in close conjunction with his colleagues in the higher reaches of the Civil Service is hardly the man best fitted to arraign them for negligence and default before the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons.

The last three holders of this important office have been ex-civil servants and I suggest it is time that the appointment should be given to, say, a senior accountant from outside the public service, assisted, if need be, by an ex-Treasury official. If cash limits on public expenditure are to take on real meaning, and supplementary estimates are to bite, the role of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Public Accounts Committee will be greatly enhanced.

Could I therefore support Mr Leon Brittan's contention about the Ombudsman and say that it is also quite wrong that the appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General should have been made without the full knowledge and agreement of the House of Commons? It goes without saying that these remarks are wholly confined to the post itself and not to the person recently appointed who is, to my knowledge, a man of the highest integrity and ability.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN NOTT,
House of Commons.
February 25.

Compulsory seat belts

From Miss M. E. Mortimer

Sir, If, as Mr A. C. Durie of the AA (of which I also am a member) so confidently asserts (February 23), there is a clear majority of opinion accepting mandatory wear of seat belts, why do so many drivers whose cars are already fitted prefer not to wear them?

Personally, they fill me with horror. To be strapped into a car which may overturn and catch fire, condemning one to a ghastly death, should *not* be compulsory.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. MORTIMER,
Horizon Cottage,
West Woodlands,
Frome,
Somerset.
February 24.

Development of dockland

From the Chairman of North Thames Gas

Sir, Your article on the development of London dockland states that one of the principal difficulties in developing this area has been the reluctance of North Thames Gas to release land for development at Beckton, which, until last year, was one of our major gas manufacturing plants.

In fact, we have released and sold large areas of land for development at Beckton, amounting to 74 acres in 1966-67 and 84 acres in 1972, which included the "Beckton Alps" shown in your photograph. In 1974 a further small area of five acres was released and sold.

Since 1968 an additional area of 40 acres has been on offer to both the Greater London Council and the London Borough of Newham, but so far neither council has agreed to purchase this land, which we no longer require.

We now retain in the Beckton area approximately 300 acres of land, much of which is still occupied by engineering plant forming a vital part of our gas storage and distribution network. The need to retain this is under constant review, in consultation with the headquarters of the British Gas Corporation, and further acreage may be released in the future.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. COOPER, Chairman,
North Thames Gas,
30 Kensington Church Street, W8.
February 24.

Military units in schools

From Mr Geoffrey Payton

Sir, "It is no secret that military training has been introduced in Cuban schools", you say.

I can now reveal that at an early age I was forced by my headmaster to undergo anti-guerrilla training in the Wolf Patrol of what might have been called the Asquith Youth Movement (or was it Campbell-Bannerman?).

Another headmaster forced me to join a paramilitary unit with the secret initials OTC, and there I remained until I managed to persuade him that this interfered with my politico-social studies.

Autres temps autres mots?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY PAYTON,
Linstead Court,
Station Road,
Sidmouth,
Devon.
February 24.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 26: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Newspaper Industry in London today.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove to Beaverbrook Newspapers Limited and were received by the Chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association (the Lord Goodman) and the Chairman of Beaverbrook Newspapers Limited (Sir Max Aitken, Bt).

Having toured the Works, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited New Carmelite House, where Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by the Chairman and Chief Executive of Associated Newspapers Group Limited (the Hon Vere Harmsworth), and Northcliffe House.

The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, later honoured the Chairman and Members of the Newspaper Publishers Association with Her presence at luncheon in the Press Centre.

This afternoon, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness visited the Telegraph building and were received upon arrival by the Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of *The Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph* (the Lord Hartwell).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh then drove to the offices of Mirror Group Newspapers and were received by the Chairman (Mr Edward Pickering).

Mrs John Dugdale, Mrs Michael Wall, Lieutenant-Colonel the Right Hon Sir Martin Charteris and Major Robin Broke were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Garrick Club, was present at dinner at the Club this evening.

His Royal Highness was received upon arrival by the Chairman (the Lord Russell of Killowen).

Lord Rupert Nevill was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Lord Rupert Nevill at the Memorial Service for Sir Spencer Summers which was held at the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields today.

Birthdays today

Sir Myles Abbott, 70; Dr C. H. Best, 77; Sir George N. Clark, 86; Lord Coleraine, 75; Viscount Cowdray, 66; Vice-Admiral Sir Kaye Edden, 71; Sir Berkeley Gage, 72; Sir Philip Hay, 58; Air Marshal Sir Harold Martin, 58; Sir Algernon Rumbold, 70; Sir Charles Sykes, 71; Miss Elizabeth Taylor, 44.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. G. I. J. Cosgrove and Miss P. J. Wardle
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs J. Irving Cosgrove, Kingswood, Surrey, and Pamela, eldest daughter of Mrs A. Maplethorpe, Billinghay, Lincolnshire, and Mr W. Wardle, *of Dorking, Surrey.*

Mr S. P. J. Howell and Miss M. Clark
The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr and Mrs John Howell, of Colleytown House, Chittlehampton, North Devon, and Madeleine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Owen Clark, of Purley, Surrey.

Dr G. M. Thompson and Miss J. Morley-Smith
The engagement is announced between Graham, eldest son of Mr and Mrs L. Thompson, of Lancing, Sussex, and Josephine, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs M. Morley-Smith, of Bulawayo, Rhodesia.

Mr R. C. B. Thorne and Miss K. S. Parkinson
The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Ben and Sylvia Thorne, British Embassy, Tokyo, and Kate, younger daughter of the late James Parkinson and of Betty Parkinson, of Limuru, Kenya.

Mr R. R. H. Shipway and Miss S. E. Rose
The engagement is announced between Ralph Robert Heming, elder son of Mr and Mrs R. H. Shipway, of Tudor Lodge, The Park, Cheltenham, and Susan Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. B. Rose, of Yardley Ridge, Tonbridge.

Mr C. L. Walker-Robson and Miss P. K. M. Savage
The engagement is announced between Colin Laird, son of Mr James Walker-Robson and the late Mrs Hilda Walker-Robson, of Hurst, Berkshire, and Pera Karen Mary, only daughter of Major and Mrs Richard Savage, of Huntercombe, Berkshire.

Today's engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh opens Coleshill Sludge Incineration Plant on behalf of Severn-Trent Water Authority, Coleshill, Warwickshire, 10.15; later visits factories of Aviation Division of Dunlop, Holbrook Lane, Coventry, 12.45.

Princess Anne is admitted to freedom of City of London, Guildhall, 12; attends luncheon given by Lord Mayor, Mansion House, 1.

Lecture: "Chinese Arts of Early Dynasties", by Veronica Lieven, Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, 2.30.

St James's Spring Antiques Fair, Piccadilly Hotel, Piccadilly, 11-8 (final day).

Memorial services: Dowager Countess of Halifax, St Peter's Eaton Square, 11; Professor Sir Alexander Haddow, St Paul's, Onslow Square, 12.

Luncheons

Newspaper Publishers Association
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were the guests of honour at a luncheon given by Lord Goodman, chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association, at the London Press Centre yesterday. Among those present were:
Lord Gibson, Lord Hartwell, Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon Sir Martin Charteris, Mr William Deedes, the Hon David Astor, Major the Hon A. V. Hare, the Hon John Geddes, the Hon Michael Berry, Sir Denis Kendrick, Sir Max Aitken, Mr Arthur Davis, Mr John Dizey, Mr Robert Edwards, Mr R. J. Farmer, Mr M. B. Fisher, Mr Peter Gibbings, Mr A. Gray, Mr R. Harris, Mr Roger Harrison, Mr M. J. Hussey, Mr John Lepage, Miss Rosaline Kelly, Mr Michael Mander, Mr James Markwick, Mr M. Molloy, Mr Kenneth Morgan, Mr Owen O'Brien, Mr Edward Pickering, Mr Geoffrey Pimington, Mr Peter Preston, Mr William Rees-Mogg, Mr Brian Roberts, Mr Percy Roberts, Mr H. M. Stephen, Mr Donald Trelford, Mr H. G. Thompson, Mr J. F. Wade, Mr George Wigg, Mr Alastair Burnet, Mr David English, Mr H. C. Hardy, Mr John Junor, Mr Louis Kirby, Mr A. Lamb, Mr Bruce Matthews, Mr Rupert Murdoch, Mr Bernard Shrimsley, Mr Jocelyn Stevens, Mr E. J. Winnington Ingram, Mr Charles Wintour, Mr F. Carrell, Mr H. W. Keys, Mr W. McLoughlin, Mr A. Parish, Mr J. A. O. Pointing and Mr Hugh Scanlon.

HM Government
Mr Edward Rowlands, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of the High Commissioner for Bangladesh. Among those present were:
The Deputy High Commissioner for Bangladesh, Mr David Lane, MP, Mr Tom Cox, MP, Mr J. A. F. Ennals, Professor W. H. Morris-Jones, Mr Kevin Rafferty, Mr D. Williams, Mr H. A. H. Cortazzi, Mr A. W. Groch, Mr B. G. Smallman, Mr H. J. Tomkins, and Mr D. R. Tilling.

Building Societies Association
The President of the Building Societies Association, the Earl of Selkirk, and the chairman, Mr Raymond Potter, yesterday entertained the following guests at luncheon at 14 Park Street, London, W1.
Mr John Boyd, Lord Fulton, Sir Richard Marsh, Mr J. B. Unwin and Mr P. L. Warner.

Institute of Cost and Management Accountants
The President of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants, Mr Alex I. G. Farquharson, gave a luncheon at Brown's Hotel yesterday. The guests included:
Mr E. S. Carter, Mr Hugh Clayton, Mr P. D. N. Earle, Mrs E. Kellet-Bowman, MP, Mr A. G. Knight, Mr Alan Lord, and Dr R. J. Stanbridge.

Inter-Parliamentary Union, British Group
Sir Thomas Williams, QC, MP, chairman, Inter-Parliamentary Union, British Group, was host at a luncheon given yesterday in the House of Commons in honour of a visiting parliamentary delegation from Egypt. Others present included:
Lord Janner, Baroness Emmet of Amberley, Lord Sandys, Sir Harwood Harrison, MP, Sir John Hall, MP, Mr John Osborn, MP, Mr Laurence Pavitt, MP, Mr Patrick Wall, MP, Mr Benjamin Ford, MP, Mr Robert Edwards, MP, Mr William Molloy, MP, and Brigadier Paul Ward (secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Union, British Group).

Dinners

Needlemakers' Company
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, were the guests of honour at the annual livery dinner of the Needlemakers' Company held yesterday evening at the Mansion House. Sir Martin Wilkinson, Master, and Lady Wilkinson, with the wardens and their ladies, received the guests. Others present included:
Lord and Lady Ashdown, Sir Henry and Lady Warner, his Honour Sir Carl and Lady Aarvold, Sir Antony and Lady Part, Sir Jasper and Lady Hollom, Judge and Mrs Sutcliffe, Judge and Mrs King-Hamilton, Colonel and Alderman R. L. Gardner-Thorpe and Mrs Gardner-Thorpe, the Master of the Upholders' Company and Mrs Hulme, Major B. A. Carte, Mr and Mrs A. T. R. Nicholson, Mr and Mrs P. T. Allday and the Chamberlain and the Chief Commoner of the City of London.

Earl Howe
Earl Howe entertained the honorary fellows and honorary officers of the Institute of Road Transport Engineers at dinner at the House of Lords yesterday. Sir Peter Masefield was the guest of honour and the president, Mr G. McKay, was in the chair. Among others present were:
Lord Black, Sir William Swallow, Mr G. E. Liardet and Mr E. A. H. Elsbury.

Reception

HM Government
Mr Reg Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development, was host yesterday at a reception at Lancaster House, in honour of the delegates to a meeting of the Deputies for the Fifth Replenishment of the International Development Association of the World Bank.

Fan Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Fan Makers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr J. A. Allen; Free Warden, Mr N. A. Royce; Foreign Warden, Mr G. G. J. Davis; Clerk, Mr E. J. H. Geffen.

Royal visit cancelled

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother had to cancel a visit to the control tower at Heathrow airport yesterday because of a cold.

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Archaeology report

Tomb of Tutankhamun's regent uncovered

A second season of excavations, nearing completion at the site of the tomb of Horemheb, commander-in-chief and regent of Tutankhamun, who later became king of Egypt in about 1335 BC, has disclosed several wall reliefs, some still in position. The tomb, built by Horemheb before his accession to the throne, was discovered last year at Saqqara, by a joint expedition of the Egypt Exploration Society, London, and the Leiden Museum.

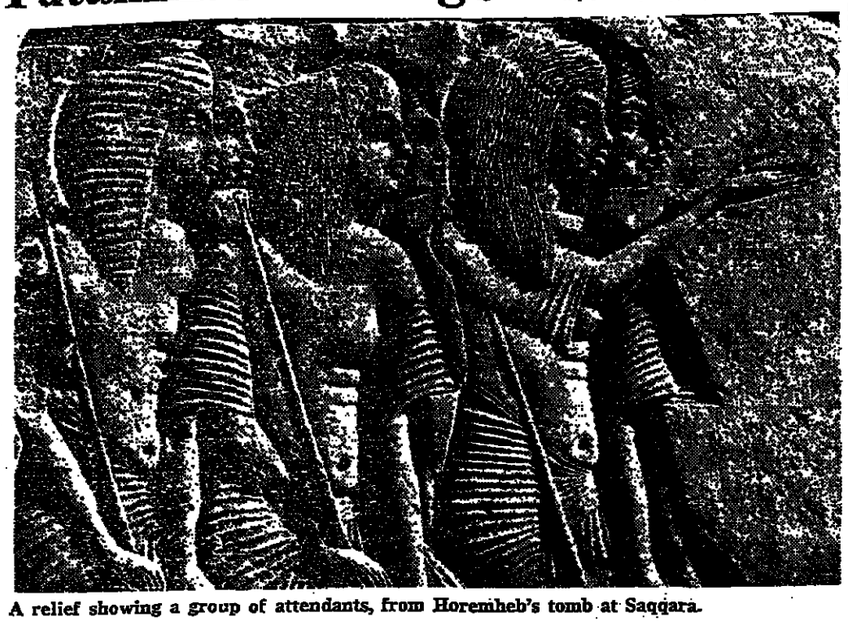
This season's work has revealed the complete plan of the tomb, almost 60 metres long. Last year a forecourt was uncovered, leading into a great colonnaded courtyard, the walls of which were originally carved with scenes depicting episodes in Horemheb's career, activities of daily life, including feasting, and scenes in a military encampment. On one wall the outlines of the original artist survive: the scenes were never carved by the sculptor since the tomb was abandoned unfinished when Horemheb acceded to the throne.

A doorway on the west side of the great courtyard leads into a statue-room, flanked by chapels. That area marked the limit of last season's excavations. When work was resumed in January this year a second colonnaded court was disclosed, together with a main chapel on the west, again flanked by side-chapels.

Several reliefs of outstanding beauty and interest came to light in the courtyard, some still in position on the walls, others in the debris.

Some of the latter have now been restored to their original positions. Many of the carved and decorated blocks and other inscribed elements were removed from the tomb in antiquity: others were dismantled in the early decades of the last century and are now in museum collections.

The true positions of some of the latter on the walls of the courtyards have emerged this year, including those of a fine stela and inscribed panels in the British Museum, and two reliefs in the Museo Civico, Bologna.



A relief showing a group of attendants, from Horemheb's tomb at Saqqara.

The blocks uncovered in the past two months were probably carved in the reign of Tutankhamun, but some betray the influence of the artists of the preceding Amarna period. Part of one wall is practically complete to its true height of three metres. Processions of Nubian and Asiatic captives are shown being led into the presence of Horemheb.

The physiognomy and dress of the foreigners in these scenes are rendered in extraordinarily lifelike detail, and provide us with some of the most accomplished relief-carving surviving from ancient Egypt.

Another wall, again with a scene of captives, showed Horemheb being received by the King and Queen, probably Tutankhamun and Ankhesenamun, daughter of Akhenaten and Nefertiti. A well-known scene in Leiden appears to fit on to that wall.

Other scenes in the second courtyard are funerary in character, but none the less vivid in representation. A row of booths with offerings and mourners is shown. A block found loose in the debris depicts Horemheb in the Fields of Iaru, the blessed fields of the hereafter. The workmanship is again of the highest order. The scene joins one which has been in the Bologna Museum since the early nineteenth century.

Evidence is emerging from this season's excavations to show that Horemheb was undoubtedly married before his accession to the throne. A stela and two fine pair-statues show him with a female who is probably his wife rather than his mother. Two of the columns in the second courtyard are inscribed with female names and titles. It is hoped that evidence to confirm the name of Horemheb's wife will be forthcoming from the tomb-shafts, which are being excavated.

Geoffrey T. Martin,
Lecturer in Egyptology, University of London, and director of the expedition.

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College planned in honour of Sir Thomas Gresham

By a Staff Reporter

At a time when monetarism enjoys a renaissance of popularity among economists, an early intellectual pioneer, Sir Thomas Gresham, who died in 1579, is to be honoured by the foundation of a college named after him in the City University.

The Court of Common Council of the City of London yesterday agreed to a proposal to reestablish Gresham College, a project originally provided for in Sir Thomas's will. It will incorporate the lectures that have been given by Gresham professors for 400 years in the seven traditional subjects of divinity, astronomy, geometry, music, law, physics, and rhetoric.

Sir Thomas, a Master of the Mercers' Company, founder of the Royal Exchange, and for many years financial agent of the Crown in Antwerp, also found that the sixteenth century knew to a foreign exchange dealer, was appalled by the economic effects of the persistent debasement of the coinage by Tudor monarchs. He was the author of Gresham's law that "bad money drives out good" and so arguably a prophet of monetarism.

Appropriately, one of the constituent parts of the college will be the university's international banking and finance unit, in which Gresham would have been a handy lecturer. It will also take in the graduate business centre and existing courses in the arts and extramural studies, including a degree in music in collaboration with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

The university plans to develop within the college more courses in subjects for which it is noted, such as actuarial science, statistics and economics. Later it is hoped new subjects such as law, languages and economic history will be added.

In a report to the court, the committee considering the matter stated: "The university's intention is to re-create Gresham College as a major centre of education and learning in the City, by bringing together academics from different disciplines in much the same way as an Oxford or Cambridge college.

"The tradition of scholarship represented by the Gresham professorships and by Sir Thomas Gresham's foundation is regarded *by the university as fundamental* to that concept which is seen as the dynamic basis for the future development of the university."

The university is proposing to establish Gresham fellowships as well as professorships to attract distinguished scholars to the City. Visiting fellowships for overseas scholars are also planned. Dr Edward Parkes, the vice-chancellor, explained that such fellows would bring new ideas into research and teaching at a time when academic mobility was generally low.

The Lord Mayor, Sir Lindsay Ring, who is Chancellor of the City University, welcomed the plans to refound Gresham College. He said that the proposal was in such close accord with the ideas of Gresham that it was an exceptional event.

At first the college will be split among several buildings. However, plans have been drawn up for a new building, possibly in the Barbican area.

Helen, the giraffe born at London Zoo, with her mother, Virginia, yesterday.

Science report

Contraception: Hazards of IUDs

Intra-uterine contraception devices (IUDs) may be another rare cause of congenital deformities or the thalidomide type, in the view of Dr Herbert Barrie of the paediatric research laboratory at the Charing Cross Hospital, London.

Dr Barrie's report in the *British Medical Journal* describes two *cases seen recently of babies born* with shortening and deformity of limbs. Both infants had missing bones in the legs and missing fingers. Such deformities are most unusual, apart from the epidemic due to thalidomide in 1959 to 1962, and the report suggests that the common factor in the two cases may have been that the mothers had become pregnant while fitted with intra-uterine devices.

IUDs do not give complete protection against pregnancy: the chance of a woman using an IUD becoming pregnant during one year is about one in 50. When pregnancy does occur there is a substantial risk of miscarriage and of other complications, such as ectopic pregnancy in the Fallopian tube, and premature labour. Many obstetricians recommend that a woman who becomes pregnant while using an IUD should have the device removed early to reduce the risk of complications.

So far, however, this is the first report linking foetal abnormalities with use of an IUD. Dr Barrie suggests that the abnormal development may have been due to the copper content of the IUDs concerned, but extensive tests on animals have failed to show any connection between copper and congenital deformities.

If there was a causal link between the IUD and limb deformities in these cases, it must be a rare association. Women fitted with IUDs, and their doctors, should bear in mind the higher *risk of complications in any acci*dental pregnancy. Ideally that possibility should have been considered and discussed when the device was fitted, when an objective decision can be taken on the action to be followed should pregnancy occur.

By Our Medical Correspondent.
Source: *BMJ*, February 28, page 484.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before duty paid, duty not disclosed):
Crow, Mr Alfred Frank, of Aldridge, West Midlands company director £103,759
Hurst, Camilla Cooper, of Moor Park, Hertfordshire .. £112,102
Locker, Winifred Anne, of Cuddington, Cheshire .. £212,168
Melvin, Mr William Robertson, of Leeds, company director £124,595
Pickles, Mr William, of Preston, company director .. £529,972
Pickles, Mr William James, of Nottingham, company director £242,648
Sneesum, Miss Gladys Dorothy, of Barnstaple £276,861
Southwood, Mr Albert, of Highgate, London (intestate) £102,920
Wyard, Mr Jack Albert, of Ipswich, removal contractor £204,373

Exham, Avice Josephine, of *Monkstown, co Cork, estate in* England and Wales .. £343,922

Middlesex County Association

The following have been elected officers of the Middlesex County Association: Sir Graham Rowlandson, President; Mr Ronnie Politeyan, chairman; Mr George Dufton, general secretary and Mr Harold Hayman, honorary treasurer.

Church news

Church of Scotland
The Rev Andrew Moyes, of Lintburn, Glasgow, presbytery of Glasgow, to Broxburn, presbytery of West Lothian.
The Rev R. L. Glover, of Newton, Dalkeith, presbytery of Lothian, to St Vigeans and Auchmithie, presbytery of Angus.
The Rev A. M. Rennie, of Melrose, to Kincardine, and Croick, presbytery of Tain.
The Rev G. I. Griffiths, of Chalmers, Wishaw, presbytery of Hamilton, to High Cross, Melrose, presbytery of Melrose and Peebles.
The Rev J. A. Carmichael inducted *to Ardgour linked with Strontian, pres*bytery of Lochaber.

25 years ago

From the Times of Tuesday, February 27, 1951

Washington, Feb 26.—General Bradley, the chairman of the joint Chiefs of Staff, testifying on universal military training before the House of Representatives armed services committee today, said that there were at present approximately 250,000 American troops in Korea. *He said in reply to a* question later that more men were being sent there.

He pointed out that the total armed strength of the United States recommended to the President and to Congress by the joint Chiefs of Staff called for some 3,500,000 men, and said that they expected that a force of this size could not be maintained by voluntary enlistment.

Amati violin sold for £18,000

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A violin by Nicolo Amati, of Cremona, with a label dated 1680, was sold at Phillips yesterday for £18,000 (estimate £20,000). An Amati of similar quality brought £14,700 at Christie's in 1974. It was bought yesterday by a private collector from Germany.

Phillips's sale of musical instruments went exceptionally well, totalling £70,604, with only four out of 252 lots unsold. A violin bow by Francois Tourte, of Paris, dating from about 1780, made an auction record price for a bow at £3,200 (estimate £3,000); it was previously in the Henry Hottinger collection in New York and yesterday went to a Canadian buyer.

There was another surprise price for a bow by Louis Simon Pajeot, dating from the early nineteenth century but in very damaged condition; it made £720 (estimate £300 to £400) and was bought by Ka Kaku from Japan.

A good George Panormo cello of about 1830 fetched £5,400 (estimate £4,000 to £5,000) and one by Annibale Fagnola, dated 1912, went for £4,600 (estimate £3,000 to £4,000). A viola by Joannes Baptista Gabrielli, of Florence, with a label dated 1765, made £5,200 (estimate £4,000).

At Sotheby's Hodgson's Rooms, prices in a sale of children's books were generally above estimate and it made £8,338, with 10 lots unsold. Two Beatrix Potter first editions, *The Tailor of Gloucester* and *The Tale of Two Bad Mice*, in indifferent condition but accompanied by the cups, now broken, depicted in *The Tailor of Gloucester*, went for £90 (estimate £35 to £50).

The first edition of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*, with illustrations by E. H. Shepherd, made £205 (estimate £100 to £150).

A Bond Street sale of fine silver made £114,726, with 8 per cent unsold. The top price was £7,480, with premium (estimate £5,000 to £7,000) for a Charles I tankard. A sale of drawings and watercolours made £16,066.

At Sotheby's Belgravia a sale of oriental ceramics made £46,517, with less than 1 per cent unsold. Hugh Moss paid £1,265 (estimate £500 to £800) for a pair of 25in Imari vases and covers surmounted by lions.

The strength of the oriental market was also underlined at Bonham's, who had a substantial group of Chinese furniture for sale; a pair of Chinese hardwood sidetables went to Hogg at £1,595 (estimate £900 to £1,000).

Memorial services

Sir Spencer Summers
The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Lord Rupert Nevill at a memorial service for Sir Spencer Summers held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Prebendary Austen Williams officiated. Mr S. M. Summers read the lesson, and tributes were paid by the Dean of Windsor and Mr J. A. Leavey (British Field Sports Association). Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten of Burma (President of the International Council of the United World Colleges) was represented by Mr A. D. C. Peterson, the Speaker by Mr Oscar Murton, MP, and the Leader of the Opposition by Mr John Stanley, MP. Others present included:
Lady Summers (widow), Colonel and Mrs J. L. S. Andrews (son-in-law and daughter), Mr Giles Andrews, Simon Andrews and Elizabeth Andrews (grandchildren), Mrs Thomson Clover (sister), Mr and Mrs Tim Summers, Mr J. P. V. Summers, Mr A. M. Summers, Mr and Mrs John Thomlinson, Mr Antony Thomlinson, Mr N. Thomlinson, the Rev Hugh and Mrs Thomson Clover, Mrs Peter Thomson Clover, Miss C. Thomson Clover, Mr and Mrs Michael Thomson Clover, Mr David and Lady Mary Russell, Mr and Mrs Charles Tidbury.

The Marquess and Marchioness of Kildare, Lord Hankey (representing the governing body of the Atlantic College) and Lady Hankey, Lord Warrington, Lord Rea, Mr Enoch Powell, MP, Mr Humphrey Atkins (Opposition Chief Whip) and Mrs Atkins, the Hon Lady Ponsonby, Sir Ralph Verney (representing the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire), and Lady Verney, Lady Harlech, Sir John Rodgers, MP, Lady (Peter) Roberts, Sir Horsewood Wake (Country Landowners' Association) and Lady Wake, Lord Chilston, Admiral Sir Geoffrey Miles, Sir Edward and the Hon Lady Ford, Sir Paul Bryan, MP, Sir Charles Mott-Radclyffe, Sir John Thorpe, Sir Walter Coutts, Sir William Elliott, MP, Sir Gilbert Longden, Sir John Curtis, Sir Philip Rogers (Outward Bound Trust), Mr and Mrs Hon Mrs R. W. Collins, Lieutenant-Colonel and the Hon Mrs Rose Price, the Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, Mr Spencer Le Marchant, Mr Mr Neil Marten, MP, Mr John H. Osborn, VM, Mr Michael Hamilton, MP, Mr Jasper More, MP, Mr Timothy Raison, VP, with Major and Mrs P. T. C. McGee, Mr Michael J. Lewis, Mr R. A. P. de Burgh Sidley and Mr P. A. Mogford (Aylesbury Divisional Conservative and Unionist Association), Mr Gerald Williams, Mr Timothy Whistler, Mr William Bell, Mr David Tudway Quilter (Outward Bound Trust, Devon), Squadron Leader L. W. Davies (Outward Bound School, Ullswater), Mr G. N. F. Winsate (Outward Bound School, Eskdale), Mrs E. W. Dawson, Mrs J. A. Leaver, Mr A. B. Siobert, Mrs James Ramsden, Mr and Mrs H. V. Hodson, Mr Martin McLaren, Mrs David Price, Mr Ian Elliot (United States Steel Corporation).

Mr K. R. Crosby and Mr D. K. Smith (Department of Health and Social Security), Mr R. D. W. Maxwell (Chief Executive, Aylesbury Vale District Council), Mr J. H. Lane-Fox (Minister and Warden Hill Hunt), Mr John Ford, Colonel and Mrs Ivo Reid, Mr and Mrs W. J. R. Gowatt, Mr Gerald Corvonan, Mr Kenneth Burton, and Mr and Mrs David Erlina.

Miss M. Leighton
A memorial service for Miss Margaret Leighton was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Rev John Knight, the Rev Michael Hurst-Bannister, Actors' Church Union, the Rev John Arrowsmith, who pronounced the blessing, Sir John Gielgud, who read sonnets by Shakespeare, Sir Alec Guinness, who read from Revelations of Divine Love, by Julian of Norwich, and Sir John Clements, who gave an address, took part in the service. Among others present were:
Mr Michael Wilding (husband), Mrs John Leighton (sister-in-law), Miss Susan Leighton and Miss Catherine Leighton, Mr and Mrs Colin Wilde (brother-in-law and sister), Mr and Mrs Michael Trubshawe, Mr Geoffrey Smith, Miss June Rose, Mr and Mrs Ball, Lord and Lady Graves, Lady Lifford, Sir John Wolfe, Sir Bernard Miles, Lady Alec Guinness, Miss Genista Strachan, Mr and Mrs Bruce Boulid, Mr Wybert Allen, Mr S. G. Bailey, Mr Bernard Gordon, Mr Nigel Patrick, Mr John Standing, Mr Martin Tickner, Mr

Mr Michael Codron, Mr Alan Strachan, Miss Diana Churchill, Mr John Franklyn-Robbins, Mr Donald Sinden with Mrs Sinden (representing Theatrical Ladies' Guild of Charity), Mr Peter Hall, Miss Jill Balcon, Miss Joan Hickson, Mr Edward Stuiro, Mr Richard Leech, Mr John Perry, Miss Margaret Rawlings (representing Equity), Mr and Mrs Ronald Harwood, Mr Patrick Barr, Miss Joan Hirst, Mr and Mrs Laurence Evans, Mr Keith Baxter, Mr John Merivale, Miss Dinah Sheridan, Miss Gwen Nelson, Miss Siobhan McKenna, Mr Vivian Cox, Mr Stephen Mitchell, Mrs Tony Rowland, Mr Robert Marsh, Mr Julian Mitchell, Mr William Chappell, Mr John Cruickshank, Mr Alan McNaughton, Mr Hugh Manning, Miss Joyce Redman, Mr Eddie Kindlandis, Mr John Perry, Mr Anthony Nicholls, Miss Kate Nicholls, Miss Sarah Nicholls, Mr Peter Bridge, Miss Elspeth March, Mr Charles Gray, Miss Leila Ward, Mrs Jack Hawkins, Mr and Mrs Roald Dahl, Mr Theo Cowan, Mr James Noble (chairman, H. M. Tennent), Mr Nicholas Brignocka, Mrs N. Cawthorne, Mrs Mary Miller, Mrs May Elay, Miss Ann Jones (Gallery First Nights), Mr Ralph Mantell, Mr and Mrs G. Rabatsch, Miss Pauline Maircorell, Mr Denis Barry.

Air Vice-Marshal P. G. D. Farr (Brian Research Trust), Mr John Barcroft, Miss Daphne Newton, Miss Bronwen Gray, Mr Jonathan Scott, Mr R. Swann, Mrs C. Taylor, Mrs N. Heyman, Mr S. Hornby, Mrs Peter Ward, Mrs M. Sheldrick, Mrs E. Carpenter, Miss Alethea Hayter (representing the governors of the Old Vic Theatre), Mr Robert Clarke, Miss Patricia Dickinson, Miss Agatha Carroll, Mr J. J. Williams, Mrs M. Russell Jones, Mr George Hamilton, Mr G. Walter, Mr Michael Harding, Mr G. King, Mr Peter Wilmore, Mr Cal Darnell, Miss Betty Bowden, Mr Stanley Lloyd, Mr Anthony Viccars, and Mr K. Porter.

Mr G. P. Eliot
A memorial service for Mr Geoffrey Philip Eliot was held yesterday at St Michael's, Cornhill. Canon Norman Motley officiated, Mr H. H. T. Hudson, chairman of Lloyd's, gave an address, and the lesson was read by Mr D. C. B. Wrey. Among those present were:
Mrs Eliot (widow), Mr and Mrs R. F. Eliot (son and daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs A. C. G. Eliot, Mr Simon Eliot, Miss Susan Eliot, Mr and Mrs Dyngs Wrey, Mr Charles Wrey, Mr Mark Wrey, Sir Thomas Devitt, Mr Philip Devitt, Mr Richard Devitt, Miss José Macindoe, Mrs K. Sykes, Miss Jennie Devitt, Mr J. A. Patterson-Morgan, Mrs Audrey Turcan and Miss Lydia Turcan.

The Chairman, Deputy Chairmen and members of the Committee of Lloyd's: Mr H. H. T. and Lady Cathleen Hudson, Mr A. W. Higgins and Mrs Higgins, Mr P. L. Foden-Pattinson and Mrs Foden-Pattinson, Mr B. J. Brennan and Mrs Brennan, Mr A. H. Chester, Mr Lambert Coles, Mr D. Darow and Mrs Dear, Mr C. O. Gibbs, Mr C. D. D. Gilmour and Mrs Gilmour, Mr A. S. Gray, Mr T. B. Langton and Mrs Langton, Mr P. R. Wright.

Mr Frank Lynch and Mr Keith Brown (Lloyd's General Counsel, United States) and Mrs Lynch, Dr and Mrs R. Wiedemann, Dr and Mrs M. Bodenchatr, Mr Shuji Kano (representing Japanese Aviation Pool), Mr and Mrs S. R. D. Bell, Miss Fiona Bell, Mr and Mrs N. L. Steele, Vice-Admiral Sir Harry and Lady Kenelly, Sir Henry and Lady Benson, Mr D. K. Bell, Mr R. L. Bradley, Mr Cameron Stockwell, Mr C. J. Salter, Mrs S. M. J. Roddick, Mr R. B. Tiley, Sir Henry Mance, Mr and Mrs Paul Dicey, Professor David Keith-Lucas (representing the Airworthiness Requirements Board), Mr J. M. T. Hewitt (chairman, Lloyd's Aviation Underwriters' Association),

Mr and Mrs P. W. Milligan, Mr P. R. Mackinnon, Sir Anthony Grover, Mr John Rodgers (also representing the chairman of Lloyd's Register of Shipping), Mr Julian Faber, Mr James Gibb, Mr David Beck, Mr E. F. E. G. Putnam, Mr H. A. V. White-Smith (representing Lloyd's Insurance Brokers' Association), Mr A. E. Sturge (chairman, Lloyd's of London Press Ltd) and Mr Clifford Welch (managing director) with Mrs Sturge, Mr C. A. Thomas (secretary-general, Confederation of Lloyd's).

Lord Reigate, Mr E. Mr B. B. Mallyon, Mr Mr B. F. Kindell, Mr son, Mr Derek H. Stuart Lloyd's Underwriting Association) Mr Edmunds, Mr W. M. P. S. S. Stephens, Mr Mr James Newby, Mr Mr J. J. Purdue, Mr O R. A. J. Hooe, Mr L Mrs R. A. P. Johnstr Amory, Mr Leslie Wri Cresswell, Mr Bob Whit Colburn, Mr L. R. H. Hill, Mr Stephen Merr Graves, Mr Tim Lord Roscoe, Mrs Philip G Geraldine Jolly, Colo Anthony Charles, Mrs S Mrs C. J. Vernon Mill M. Hamilton, Mr and M Mr Stafford A. G Hulton, Mr Andrew P. L. B. Stoddart Davies, Mr James Mr F. Emson, Mr A. Mr A. B. Bolton, Mrs / D. M. Slade, Mr Star S. W. Osbondon, Mr Jo J. M. F. Powell, Mr a Kinnmonth, Mr J. A Keith Vincr, Mr R. Pl Gills, Mr and Mrs A. son, Mrs David Iredell Fund for Sailors).

Mr N. H. Lester, Edwards, Mr and Mrs Robert Fenn, Mr A. V R. B. Holt, Mr G. A David Hill, Captain T. Derek Blaise, Mr D. R. W. Baker, Mr G. J. N. Moors, Mr and Willett, Mr R. Tosh Morison, Mr John Moll Hoggard, Mr G. J. H. D. Conroy, Mr A. E. C. Street-Porter, M Fraser, Mr and Mrs Ion, Mr D. F. J Crispin Spears, Mr J Fir S. A. Cor Brooks, Mr and Mrs Pe P. R. Welch, Mr Chas John Robson, Mr H. I. R. Prowle, Mr Jul J. O. Heath, Mr Mar John Norton, Mr D Major Sir Ronne Mal Cutler, Mr L. F. Thurgo Foster, Mr Ros Smith Dowlen, Mr David Chri Proudlove, Mr R. W. P R. S. Langton, Mr C. R. C. Sells, Mr Peter L Gardner, Mr E. C. Gu C. M. Ratcliffe, Mr M. H. A. Hopkins, Mr Tha Arnold Hendersen, Mr A Mr P. D. Kennedy, Mr Mr J. M. Poland, Mr A Mr P. O. Bird, Mr W. Gale Coles, Mr J. Bow J. M. F. Powell, Mr a White, Mr J. H. Co Carmagel, Mr E. W. Da Helford, Mr E. W. Da Lloyd's Aviation Underwriters' Association), Mr Kersh Green, Mr D. J. Wal Glover, Mr and Mrs Mr A. W. Wagman, Mr Mr M. F. Hall, Mr K. Mr A. H. V. Crood.

OBITUARY

MR I. D. MARGARY

Noted archaeologist

Mr Ivan Donald Margary, FSA, died on February 18, at the age of 79. He was the leading authority on Roman roads in this country, as well as being a notable benefactor of archaeology. His original studies of Roman roads in south-eastern England, notably the Stane Street, led to the publication in 1948 of *Roman Ways in the Weald*. This was followed in 1955 by his massive two-volume corpus of *Roman Roads in Britain*. This immediately became the standard work on the subject and has subsequently gone through four successive editions, each incorporating the results of the latest discoveries.

A. J. T. and F. W. S. write:

With Ivan Donald Margary's passing, antiquaries have lost one of their most distinguished colleagues and a valued friend. Few men were more self-effacing or more generous than Donald Margary; his gifts to the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Archaeological Institute, the Sussex, Surrey, and Kent Archaeological Societies, and others with which he was concerned, were princely, but such benefactions were always made with such humility as to appear almost surreptitious. It is due to him that the site of the great Roman Palace at Fishbourne was acquired and protected so that tens of thousands of people could visit and enjoy it. Largely due to him, what is now known as the Margary Room at Barbican House, Lewes, was reconstructed and refurnished. To him, also, Exeter College, Oxford, owes most of the new quadrangle which (to his admitted embarrassment) now bears his name.

Margary had sterling qualities other than gene was a patient, bur committee man, he w his judgments, he natured, and never thank those who ren the smallest service. this, he was England' on Roman roads abou wrote the standard was a meteorologist meticulous records fo and often correctly p fine day when les formed men said it w He was also a farmer and appreciated the w countryman. All he combination of qui and assurance.

Donald Margary Sussex Archaeologic in 1927; he was chair Council for more most of its present n remember, and he dent from 1964 to 19 elected a Fellow of t of Antiquaries of 1932 and a regular its Thursday meetin demonstrated the bre interests. He was a sellor where the affairs were concern familiar figure in its lecture room will missed.

Of all that could about Margary, the aspect of his charac those who knew hin recall with affection tude, and that was hi All honours, althoug deserved, were decli grounds that he was to share his wealth knowledge. He was o school" in manner, civility; his pattern be cherished by those fortunate enough to among his friends.

MR JESSE CAST

Sir William Coldstream writes:

Jesse Cast whose death on February 9, at the age of 75 was recently reported, was an artist of unusual distinction although his

ARGARY
hen flair and
aeologist
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e not
ough, page 19

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

LAING
LOCAL OR NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

ulf and Conoco accept ate participation terms n three North Sea fields

ger Vielvoye
y Correspondent

f Oil and its partner in Sea oil exploration and ipment work, Continental yesterday formally ed voluntary state parti- on in three of their off- oilfields.

two American com- were already equal ners with the British al Oil Corporation in the Dunlin and Statfjord and the agreemem basi- extends the state com- entitlement to oil from fields from one third to cent.

crucial part of this two- deal is the document giv- tails of the option which NOC will have to acquire market the crude oil from cent of the production ch it now has title.

the first three years these fields begin com- l production, the two nies have the right to all output. BNOC can then ase an option to acquire cent of the output, ris- 57 per cent after five

BNOC has decided to he oil, it must pay the nies the full market to ensure they are not ally out of pocket e of the state holding. ercial production is ed to begin next year.

Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who e Government's negotiat- eam, denied yesterday e agreement represented b-down by the Govern- on participation. "Our ating position has not ed at all from beginning to end", he said.

Despite earlier government assurances that as much information as possible on the participation agreements would be published, only very broad outlines of the deal are being made public.

In announcing these first two agreements, Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said the amount of detail which could be disclosed was limited by the need to maintain certain confidences with the companies.

Although Mr Benn says the agreement is not a blueprint for future arrangements, the other companies involved in discussions with the Government, or still waiting to begin talks, will be studying those details that are available with some care.

The sight of two large American companies agreeing to voluntary participation is, according to industry sources, unlikely to affect the attitude of American groups like Exxon which are opposed to a state holding.

Mr Benn said yesterday that several other companies were in an advanced state of negotiation over participation. This was in addition to the eight companies, including British Petroleum, which had conceded the principle of state participation and were also involved in negotiations.

While the Government has a 48 per cent direct holding in BP and a further 20 per cent is held by the Bank of England, the negotiations are thought to be proving difficult.

Gulf and Conoco had reached satisfactory terms in regard to the period of notice BNOC would be required to give before exercising the option to take the oil as phase-in arrangements, a procedure for settling disputes, and the determining of a market price.

Mr Benn said all these points were covered in the agreement but details would not be made public.

Mr Benn again hinted yesterday that companies cooperating with the Government could expect preferential treatment when new licences for oil exploration were distributed later in the year.

The agreement signed yesterday covers only the Thistle, Dunlin and Statfjord fields. But if the Hutton and Murchison discoveries are proved commercial the same terms for state participation will also apply.

The route the Government and the companies have taken to majority state participation is complex.

The BNOC's title through the NCB is increased to 51 per cent, but the Gulf and Conoco retain their 33 1/3rd working interest. This means that all three parties must agree on major decisions.

But by bringing the royalty payment obligations into the calculations, the companies end up with their 33 1/3rd share in production reduced to 23. 2per cent, as opposed to the 24.5 per cent as a result of an equal split in the 49 per cent interest.

These figures are arrived at by including Gulf and Conoco's liability to pay a 12.5 per cent royalty on their 49 per cent share of production. When this is taken into consideration the BNOC title to oil rises to 57.1 per cent.

NEB will hold key strings at Rolls

By Maurice Corina

Sir Kenneth Keith, chairman of Rolls-Royce (1971), appears to have lost on points in the diplomatic struggle over the powers of the National Enterprise Board, led by Lord Ryder, concerning the future running of the company.

A memorandum of understanding, issued yesterday to clarify the relationship, looks remarkably similar to the guidelines for other NEB companies, with both sides pledging to "do their best to make the relationship a harmonious one and one of trust".

It has been settled that the normal channel of communication on main issues will be between Sir Kenneth and Lord Ryder, supported by contacts between their respective senior staff to carry out the state holding board's responsibilities, but without intervention in the day to day management of Rolls-Royce.

The supporting staff of the NEB will agree a programme of discussions through Sir Kenneth's office to ensure that Lord Ryder is "properly informed".

But it is not to take part in the decision making of Rolls-Royce, nor are the NEB staff to act as an inspecting team. This provision was being seen yesterday as a method of curbing the zeal of the NEB's "young tigers".

However, Lord Ryder has won some notable controls over Rolls-Royce, which is expected to operate as far as possible on a normal commercial basis.

The NEB, as biggest shareholder and provider of finance, is holding important strings. Any changes in the Rolls-Royce boardroom or changes in remuneration have to be approved by Lord Ryder.

Long range and annual plans will be subject to agreement with the NEB, with Rolls-Royce supplying the NEB with information it may require to monitor performance.

Rolls-Royce's board must also seek Lord Ryder's blessing for big investment programmes, as well as any specific capital projects costing £5m or more.

Further, Rolls-Royce must get Lord Ryder's permission before acquiring any shareholdings of 30 per cent or over in any company, or whether a share deal involves more than £10m.

Sir Kenneth has won the right of being present alongside NEB officials, in any important governmental discussions on Rolls-Royce plans. He will retain the long standing right of access to ministers, but first he must consult Lord Ryder who will have the opportunity to go along too.

On day to day matters, Rolls-Royce can deal with the Department of Industry, the Ministry of Defence's procurement executive, the Foreign Office and the Department of Employment.

Where Sir Kenneth has scored is in the general principles to govern the working relationship, including the written pledge that Lord Ryder's board has no intention of usurping the responsibilities of the Rolls-Royce board or to intervene in the day to day management. This is reinforced by the provisions relating to NEB staff.

Full text, page 20

Bear Brand complains of cash aid refusal as receiver moves in

By Margaret Walters

Bear Brand, the Liverpool tights and stockings group, yesterday succumbed to the receiver, after surviving a decade of trading losses and bitter boardroom feuds.

But in a fighting condemnation of the refusal of the Department of Industry to increase aid, Mr Mervyn Smith, the managing director appointed last October, claimed the group had experienced a dramatic improvement in production and sales in recent months.

In April last year the Department of Industry made a £350,000 loan against the judgment of the Industrial Development Advisory Board which decided that chances of the company ever becoming profitable were remote. The main consideration in granting aid was the prospect of some 400 workers in Bear Brand's factory being made redundant at a time of high unemployment in the Merseyside area.

Earlier this year Bear Brand's new management sought further aid in the form of a short-term loan of £180,000 for working capital, but this has been refused by both the Department of Industry and Lloyds Bank, the debenture holders, who yesterday appointed Mr Michael Potts, of Coopers & Lybrand, receiver at the request of the group.

Yesterday Mr Smith said that Bear Brand had continued making losses during 1975 and that the bulk of the Government money had been used up before he took over. Further expansion was required to increase production.

Some £100,000 was needed for new staff and overheads, while another £80,000 was necessary for new plant and machinery. Already the success of the group's marketing programme, which involved closer links with the High Street multiples, had enabled production to be increased from 17,000 dozen to 26,000 dozen pairs of tights a week. Production was now forecast to increase further to 32,000 dozen a week.

Mr Smith forecast that the group would have broken even this year. He claimed that neither the Government nor Lloyds had looked properly at the commercial arguments and that the Department of Industry had been influenced by an EEC Commisssion report on the hosiery industry which urged that financial support should not be given to companies in the sector which ran into trouble.

In view of Mr Smith's claims about the progress of Bear Brand, and the continuing high unemployment in the Liverpool area, it is likely that the future of the group will become a political issue.

It was suggested yesterday that Bensons Hosiery, now controlled by Tranwood, might be interested in buying some of the group's assets. The shares were suspended on the stock-market yesterday at 5p, valuing the company at some £185,000.

White Paper estimate of debt interest challenged

By Tim Congdon

Estimates of the level of debt interest made in last week's Public Expenditure White Paper are "too high in that it is only possible to obtain such figures on the basis of extreme assumptions about the future borrowing requirement, the average rate of interest and price inflation".

This charge is made in a paper prepared by Mr Terry Ward of the Department of Applied Economics, Cambridge, for the expenditure committee of the House of Commons. The paper formed the basis for questions addressed to the Treasury by the committee's members yesterday.

Mr Ward's paper suggests that the "best" estimate of the cumulative public sector borrowing requirement in the three financial years from 1976-77 to 1978-79 is around £25,000m. If interest rates were around 10 or 11 per cent this would imply debt interest in 1978-79 some £3,000m higher than in 1975-76.

To be consistent with the White Paper forecast that debt interest will amount to £7,500m in 1978-79 in 1975 prices, "would imply", Mr Ward's paper suggests, "an average rate of inflation of 4 per cent over the next three years", which, it remarks, "is obviously implausible".

Under questioning from the committee's members Treasury officials admitted that debt interest forecasts were surrounded by uncertainty, but refused to disclose more details because the variables on which they are based affect prices of gilt-edged securities.

However, Miss Patricia Brown, under secretary in the general expenditure analysis group, acknowledged that debt interest in 1978-79 might diverge by plus or minus £1,000m from the central estimate of £7,500m.

The scale of interest charges on the National Debt in coming years was one of the more publicized and disturbing aspects of last week's White Paper.

The effect of cuts in goods and services spending on public expenditure totals was shown to be largely offset by the greater burden of interest payments

Other tacit assumptions of the White Paper exercise were interrogated by the committee. Mr Lawson, Conservative MP for Blaby, asked what assumptions the Treasury had made about the balance of payments and the rates of growth of exports and imports.

Mr H. H. Liesner, under secretary of the medium term and policy analysis group, said the assumed growth rate of exports of goods and services had been 8 per cent a year from 1974 to 1979. On further questioning he conceded that such a rate of growth had never been sustained for five years at any period in the past.

Mr Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Luton West, pointed out an inconsistency between the unemployment total of 600,000 for 1978-79 implicit in the White Paper, and the likely growth of the labour force in the late 1970s.

State made £18.3m from oil barter

By Our Industrial Editor

Mr Peter Walker's famous oil-for-British goods barter deal during the energy crisis earned a net profit for the Department of Energy of £18.3m, but most of the oil seems to have gone to the Government's services or its agent for the deal, British Petroleum.

The original plan was that Britain would buy five million metric tons of crude from Iran, and in return companies would supply Iran with commodities worth some £112m.

A White Paper issued yesterday tells the complicated story of what happened to the oil, offered at favourable prices.

The deal was struck in January, 1974, with five million tons to be delivered for £110.5m during 1974 and early in 1975. BP acted as the Government's adviser. In March, 1974, a dormant subsidiary, Farringdon Oil Co, was revived to handle the transactions for a fee of £10,000, with tankers chartered with the BP Tanker Co.

The Department later established that more oil was being shipped in very large bulk carriers than had been estimated when the rates were fixed. Farringdon then negotiated a retrospective reduction in freight costs, with provisions for further adjustments.

Farringdon contracted with BP Trading for refining the crude at a fee of £2 per ton. Next the department sold the oil, partly at cost, to Government departments and companies supplying barter items to Iran, and partly by commercial tenders for four lots invited between May and December 1974.

In the first tender, 1.2 million of refined products were sold, with one million tons going to BP. The profit on the first batch of refined product was such that the oil was being sold below Middle East market prices.

When questioned about this BP agreed to a Departmental examination, as the supplies continued. A new round of tenders also produced a poor response in a falling market, but better prices were obtained for the third and fourth batches

In all, 2.45 million tons was sold as crude and 2.53 million processed into products (there were some small losses in transit and processing). After the first scare the department made a net profit of £18.3m on sales of £159.3m.

Sir David Pitblado, Parliamentary Comptroller and Auditor General, investigated the deal and questioned the Department of Energy on why Farringdon chose a one-year charter for moving the oil instead of spot charters (tanker rates fell in 1974-75).

The Department has told him it was satisfied Farringdon adequately fulfilled its agency responsibilities, giving the outcome of certain negotiations on points of difficulty that did arise and the flexibility of BP in not insisting on observance of the strict letter of contracts.

Fall in manufacturers' stocks slowing down

By Melvyn Westlake

The sharpest fall for 20 years in the level of manufacturers' physical stocks, one of the single most important factors behind the recession in industry, seems to be coming to an end.

As a key barometer of economic activity, the slower rate of destocking by manufacturers' in the closing months of 1975 provides powerful corroboration that the worst of the recession is over. A slowdown in destocking has been keenly awaited as a prelude to any revival in demand.

After dropping by a huge total of £316m in the second and third months of 1975, manufacturers' stocks declined by only £18m in the last three months of the year, to £10,415m, according to figures published yesterday by the Department of Industry.

Wholesalers and retailers actually increased their stocks by a total of £87m. Thus, for industry as a whole there was a net rebuilding in stocks of £69m.

Yet although the figures reveal a strong improvement in the final months of the year, they also show how bad 1975 was overall. The drop in manufacturers' stocks for the whole year was the largest annual decline since present statistical series was started in 1955. The total drop of £340m compares with very heavy stock-building—amounting to £670m—in 1974.

Of the three main components of stocks, holdings of materials and fuel were the worst affected, although the amount of work in progress also declined substantially. Stocks of finished goods rose during 1975 by some £112m, but this was probably involuntary and caused by insufficient consumer demand.

Separate figures for capital expenditure also show that 1975 was the worst year manufacturing industry has faced for two decades. Capital expenditure by manufacturers on buildings, vehicles, plant and machinery, plunged by as much as 14 per cent.

According to the latest investment intentions survey conducted by the Department of Industry last autumn a further drop of 5 to 8 per cent in the volume of manufacturers' capital spending on productive assets is in prospect for the present year.

For the distributive and service industries a fall in capital expenditure of 4 per cent was recorded in the last three months of 1975, bringing the total drop for the year to about 12½ per cent.

CAPITAL SPENDING

The following are the revised figures published today by the Department of Industry for the fixed capital expenditure of manufacturing, distributive, service and shipbuilding industries and for the physical increase in industry's stocks all seasonally adjusted at 1970 prices:

		£m Investment Total	Manufg	Stocks
1972		4176	1738	−138
1973		4476	1864	832
1974		4455	2087	679
1975		3846	1797	−414
1972	Q1	1029	459	−73
	Q2	1047	429	−47
	Q3	1025	423	−45
	Q4	1074	428	27
1973	Q1	1138	458	254
	Q2	1057	443	277
	Q3	1115	488	123
	Q4	1166	476	179
1974	Q1	1101	519	−72
	Q2	1086	513	261
	Q3	1135	516	357
	Q4	1132	539	134
1975	Q1	1026	493	−92
	Q2	980	457	−219
	Q3	964	434	−173
	Q4*	877	413	69

* Provisional

Gilt-edged stocks improve on hope of new MLR fall

Hopes of yet a further fall in the minimum lending rate caused prices of some Government bonds to advance by over ½ point yesterday.

If MLR does come down it will be the fifth fall this year—from 11 to 9½ per cent. British interest rates are still as much as 3 or 4 per cennage points above American rates, providing room for manoeuvre without immediately straining sterling's exchange rate.

The Treasury would clearly like to bring rates down to encourage industry to invest, but there were fears at the time of the last fall in MLR earlier this month that rates had fallen as far as they were able at the present stage of the economic cycle.

att doubt pace recovery

eva, Feb 26.—The econ- wingswing already under several industrial coun- expected to spread dur- year, according to the mary annual review by retariat of the General ent on Tariffs and (Gatt).

es, however, much un- about the rate at the recovery will pro- particular where fixed ent and stock-building cerned.

tary policies remain y tighter than in the nding phase of past fiscal measures being ngly directed at budget

thinks it evident that, stronger demand, the of industrial nations' is likely to grow more than their exports. urvey says that in the lf of 1975 the volume trade was about 10 per an annual rate, below of the preceding half- lume for the year as a as about 6 per cent an in 1974.

Accountants' bodies to investigate L & C report

By Desmond Quigley

A joint investigative committee to consider the implications of the Department of Trade report on the "fringe" bank London & County Securities and to consider the position of people named in the report has been set up by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.

The two organizations have set up a joint committee because L & C's auditors, Harmood Banner, now merged with Deloitte & Co, are members of the English institute

Mr Plummer, the partner who took the ultimate decision on the accounts and who was also criticized by the inspectors, is a member of the Scottish institute.

The inspectors said of Mr Plummer that he was aware that the cash position of A & D (L & C's banking subsidiary) had been inflated by at least £13m.

They added: "Nevertheless, he signed unqualified audit reports on the accounts of A & D and L & C. He seemed unaware of the implications of this."

But the committee faces a potential bar to information from L & C. Mr Richard Langdon, chairman of the company's present board of directors, suggested earlier this week that the committee might receive only "limited cooperation" from the company.

The committee will consist of: Mr W. R. McBrien, chairman of the English Ethics Committee; Mr C. R. Brown; Mr T. N. Ritchie; Mr B. G. Rose, chairman of the English Professional Standards committee; Mr W. N. Hunter Smart, and Mr C. C. Taylor, chairman of the English Investigation Committee.

Meanwhile Mr Richard Wilkes, senior partner at Price Waterhouse, has been appointed chairman of the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies' new auditing practices committee in place of Mr David Richards, a senior partner in Deloitte's.

Mr Richards resigned because he is a former partner in Harmood Banner and is understood to have felt that the criticism of his former firm could have embarrassed his profession.

IDCs eased to help rebuilding

Industrial development certificate policy is being eased by the Department of Industry to promote replacement of obsolete industrial buildings in urban areas, particularly in and around areas like London and Birmingham.

Until now IDCs have not normally been issued outside assisted areas for speculative rebuilding of old factories. Now plans will be decided on their merits under an experimental scheme to be reviewed after two years.

Opec may return to Geneva base

Geneva, Feb 26.—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which left Geneva for Vienna eight years ago because it was denied diplomatic status, has put out feelers about returning.

Swiss officials said they would react favourably to any formal request from Opec, but would not extend an invitation, which diplomatic channels suggest Opec would like.

If Opec formally asks to return, the issue of diplomatic status would still have to be settled, a Geneva official said. AP-Dow Jones.

Pesetas deal cost Horizon £116,000

Horizon Midlands, the Birmingham-based package tour operator, has charged £116,000 against its profits for the year to last November in respect of a sum of 14m pesetas deposited with the Spanish exchange control authorities.

The company has been advised by its Spanish lawyers that it may have been involved, in the ordinary course of business, in certain technical infringements of Spanish exchange control regulations between May, 1972 and November, 1974 and that the deposit may not be returnable.

Financial Editor, page 19

Leyland chief named today

British Leyland's new chairman will be named by the company today. The appointment follows the death last month of Sir Ronald Edwards, who was appointed after long consultations with a number of leading businessmen.

There has been intense speculation on the successor to Sir Ronald.

Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, which is due to take over the Government's 95 per cent holding in the company will have been looking for someone of Sir Ronald's stature to become part-time chairman.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 168.83 +0.60
The FT index: 410.2 +1.0

Rises

A Clough	20p to 65p	Paterson Zoch	10p to 380p
G Dew	15p to 125p	Plessey	2p to 82p
EMI	6p to 258p	Bansome Sims	18p to 135p
J. Foster	5p to 32p	Thorn Elec	8p to 272p
Hawker Sidd	4p to 428p	Vickers	4p to 173p
Horizon Mid	10½p to 46½p	Welkom	10p to 310p
Johnson Matt	10p to 365p	Whitecroft	5p to 107p

Falls

Anglo Am Coal	40p to 360p	Messina Trans	20p to 210p
Anglo Am Ind	30p to 500p	Rennies Cons	15p to 130p
Ass Port Cem	4p to 186p	Rand Mine Prop	15p to 120p
Gillett	10p to 220p	Pegall Hldgs	2p to 12p
Gedald Inv	25p to 220p	UC Invest	15p to 180p
Harmony	20p to 360p	Wankie Coll	5p to 30p
Lloyds Bank	10p to 240p	W. Rand Cons	12p to 100p

Equities eased late in the day.

Gilt-edged securities had a quiet session.

Sterling gained 5 points to $2.0265. The "effective devaluation" rate was 30.2 per cent.

Gold lost $1.25 to $132.25 per ounce.

SDR-$ was 1.16833 on Thursday, while SDR-£ was 0.576128.

Commodities: Tin prices gained strongly in London. Reuter's index was at 1234.1 (previous 1235.7).

Reports pages 20 and 21

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.67	1.61
Austria Sch	38.00	36.00
Belgium Fr	83.25	80.25
Canada $	2.65	2.00
Denmark Kr	12.75	12.35
Finland Mkk	7.95	7.70
France Fr	9.30	9.00
Germany Dm	5.30	5.10
Greece Dr	79.00	74.00
Hongkong $	10.30	9.90
Italy Lr	1765.30	1695.00
Japan Yn	635.00	620.00
Netherlands Gld	5.55	5.35
Norway Kr	11.45	11.10
Portugal Esc	64.00	55.00
S Africa Rd	2.25	2.05
Spain Pes	133.50	131.00
Sweden Kr	9.10	8.80
Switzerland Fr	5.30	5.10
US $	2.07	2.02
Yugoslavia Dnr	39.59	36.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

On other pages

Business appointments	20	Wall Street	21	Preliminary Announcements:	
Appointments vacant	18, 23	Share prices	22	Alexander Howden Group	19
Financial Editor	19	Bank Base Rates Table	21	Silentbloc Holdings	17
Financial news	20, 21	Company Meeting Reports:		Interim Statement:	
Letters	18	Grange Trust	17	Perkin-Elmer	17
Diary	19	Howard Machinery	20	Joseph Stocks & Sons (Holdings)	17
Market reports	20, 21				

he Grange Trust Limited

from the statement by the chairman, Mr. C. Alan ock, C.A., for the year ended 30th November, 1975.

t asset value rose 82%. While this is less than the rise All-Share Index, at the beginning of the year 60% of the was invested in overseas securities, where prices een subject to less extreme fluctuation.

venue before tax increased from £268,000 to £309,000.

ring the year the overseas content of the portfolio was to 43% due to less dramatic increases in share prices s and the investment of much of our liquidity in the arket.

directors are hopeful that a further modest increase nue can be achieved this year and believe that the and quality of the trust's shareholdings should stand it stead when the expected world economic recovery

ided 30th November	1975	1974
before taxation	£309,460	£268,011
s per ordinary stock unit	1.81p	1.62p
dividend	1.58p	1.474p
et value per ordinary stock unit	76.6p	42.0p

NTERIM STATEMENT

RKIN-ELMER LIMITED

INTERIM STATEMENT

results for the six months ended 31st December, 1975 unaudited accounts are as follows:—

	Six months ended 31st December 1975	1974	Year ended 30th June 1975
	£	£	£
.....	3,465,861	4,004,151	8,704,791
efore Taxation	348,766	479,261	1,168,860
xation Provision	181,358	249,216	592,994
after Taxation	£167,408	£230,045	£575,866

nterim Dividend of 5.0p (3.8p) per Share is declared, gether with the imputed tax credit is equivalent to 7.7p r Share.

SILENTBLOC HOLDINGS LIMITED

Preliminary Statement

The Directors are recommending that in respect of the year ended 28 September 1975 the maximum permitted final dividend of 9.76% be paid on 23 April 1976 to all shareholders on the Company's Register at the close of business on 22 March 1976, making with the interim already paid a total dividend of 16.01%.

Trading results for the year are set out below:

		Year to 28.9.75 £10,072,579		Year to 29.9.74 £7,375,623
TURNOVER				
		£		£
TRADING PROFIT		874,181		431,431
TAXATION	£		£	
Taxation Payable	220,503		111,465	
Deferred Taxation	246,990		153,317	
		467,493		264,782
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION		406,778		213,649
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS		(29,678)		12,466
PROFIT FOR YEAR AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION		377,100		226,115
DIVIDENDS				
Declared—8.25% (1974—5.36%)	60,090		51,524	
Proposed—Final of 9.76% (1974—9.64%)	93,836		92,662	
		153,926		144 216
RETAINED PROFIT added to reserves		£223,174		£84,899

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 26 March 1976, at 10.30 a.m. at the Registered Office, Manor Royal, Crawley, West Sussex.

By Order of the Board
R. A. HALLOWAY, Secretary

26 February 1976

JOSEPH STOCKS & SONS (HOLDINGS) LTD.

(Provision Merchants and Importers)

An interim ordinary dividend of 4% has been declared, payable on 2nd April, 1976 (4% last year). In the half year ended 30th September, 1975 turnover was £14,434,966 (£11,537,104), and profit £253,855 (£205,727), after depreciation of £24,632 (£26,842).

Trading conditions are still good and the directors expect the annual results will again show another improvement, said the Chairman, Mr D. W. Ostenfeld. The company's cash flow position has improved in spite of rising costs.

BBC agrees to stop impeding toy exports

Brussels, Feb 26.—The BBC had promised to refrain from impeding exports from Britain to the Netherlands or any other EEC country of toys and other articles protected by copyright, the Commission said today.

The BBC's pledge came after the Commission's antitrust department began proceedings after a complaint from Vallery Printing Company. The Commission said the BBC licensed a Dutch company to broadcast its animated cartoons for children.

Like other television companies in the Community, the BBC sublicensed toy manufacturers, printing works and the like to make associated products for children.

Vallery Printing, which had a sublicence to sell products in the Netherlands, was prevented from doing this by the BBC, the *Commission said*. The BBC later agreed not to impede exports of these products and the Commission ended proceedings.

ICI Ayrshire plastics factory to close

Because of world overcapacity and depressed prices ICI is suspending production of maleic anhydride. The big chemical group now finds it cheaper to buy from other suppliers. The 40 employees will be found other jobs.

ICI announced yesterday that it would stop production with effect from July, leaving Monsanto as the dominant British producer of maleic anhydride, which is used in the manufacture of polyester resins, agrochemicals, oil additives and plasticizers.

Engineering orders stay in doldrums

The downtrend in home orders in the engineering sector has levelled out, but export volumes are still falling.

Total sales declined by 1 per cent between last August and November, mainly because of a 1.5 per cent drop in export sales. Net new home engineering orders were 4.5 per cent down in the same period. On *the export side new orders fell* by 9.5 per cent.

One of the Norton bidders withdraws

The second consortium to consider buying the Norton Villiers motor cycle factory at Wolverhampton has dropped out. Headed by Cardiff businessman, Mr Peter Constance, the group of six voted by four *to two to withdraw* from the contest.

Negotiations between Mr Ronald Pitcombe, the Australian oil man, his consortium and the liquidator, Mr Kenneth Morgan, to buy the factory are "progressing".

Insurance company chief hits at ban

By Anthony Rowley
Insurance Correspondent

An allegation that the Department of Trade made an "improper and excessive use of its powers" over the stop on new *business placed on Indemnity* Guarantee Assurance was made last night by Mr Joseph Kaplan, the company managing director.

Mr Kaplan has written to the insurance division of the DoT saying that, as he has "virtually no recourse to the courts against the arbitrary exercise of such powers I shall seek to raise the matter in Parliament and otherwise to invoke public opinion".

The stop order, announced earlier this month, was made by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, under Section 29 of the Insurance Companies Act, 1974, on the ground that "Mr Joseph Kaplan, a controller of the company, is not a fit and proper person to be a controller of the company".

In a notice to Indemnity Guarantee on behalf of the Secretary of State on November 4, 1975, it was stated that, "as managing director of the company Mr Kaplan signed the accounts of the company for the financial year ending *December 31, 1974*, knowing or having reason to believe that the value assigned therein to certain freehold property, namely 64 Clifton Street, London, EC2, on the basis of valuation as at July 2, 1974, was misleading or inaccurate as a valuation of that property at December 31, 1974".

It was also stated that "consequent upon a decision of a meeting of directors held under Mr Kaplan's chairmanship on April 16, 1975, a contract of insurance in respect of the aforesaid property, purporting to be effective from October 31, 1974, and purporting to be entered into on December 17, 1974, was arranged when Mr Kaplan knew, or had reason to believe, that such insurance was improperly to be made effective from October, 1974, for the purpose of representing that the value of the aforesaid property as at December 31, 1974, was by virtue of such insurance higher than its true value at December 31, 1974".

Mr Kaplan *said last night* that the building was acquired for the company's use in mid-1974 at a cost of £220,000 against an outside valuation of £275,000, and entered in the books at cost price. At the end of 1974 Indemnity Guarantee was advised by independent valuers that the value of the building had declined to £140,000 and some directors favoured a note in the accounts to this effect.

He, however, "could not take this valuation seriously". Mr Kaplan said that at the suggestion of the company secretary, Mr J. F. Simmonds, a policy was taken out with another and unrelated insurance group indemnifying the company against the difference between the book value and the valuer's estimate of present value in Clifton Street. This was accepted by the company's auditors and the DoT accepted that the policy was valid. "Maybe this was not ideal accounting practice", he added.

Mr Kaplan claimed that the DoT had refused to countenance suggestions from him and his lawyers that he should sever his connexions with the company's affairs to avoid the stop order. He had also subsequently challenged the department to take action against him under the Companies Acts or the Insurance Acts but the department had declined to do so.

"They want a Star Chamber procedure so *that there can be* no examination or cross examination of their motives", Mr Kaplan said last night.

The Clifton Street property "accounted for 2 per cent of total asset value and a correspondingly modest proportion of our solvency margin which remained absolutely high", he said.

Recession cuts £400m off oil bill

By Roger Vielvoye

The substantial slump in demand for petrol and oil products last year contributed to a *£400m saving on Britain's oil* import bill.

Imports of crude during the year are provisionally estimated at 88 million tons, a reduction of 20 per cent on the previous year and the lowest level since 1968.

Deliveries of oil products were down by 12 per cent on 1974 when the three-day week and the world oil supply crisis distorted the figures, according to *Energy Trends*, published yesterday.

Fuel oil was particularly hard hit by the fall in demand from the power stations. More than 18 per cent less was used during the year. Petrol and diesel oil suffered least from the cutbacks, with falls of 2.2 per cent and 1.9 per cent respectively.

The fall in oil used contributed to the lowest energy consumption since 1969. Total consumption was the equivalent *of 320 millions tons of coal*, a 3 per cent reduction on the previous year.

Coal consumption in January this year was 3.5 per cent higher than in the same month of 1975. A 19 per cent increase in power station consumption was entirely responsible for this rise, as all the other markets for coal, particularly the domestic sector, declined sharply.

Electricity generated last year—251,161 GWh—increased by 0.3 per cent over the previous 12 months but was still below the 258,800 GWh generated in 1973.

Gas sales during December maintained the recovery noted in the previous month.

NEB hopes fade for Dubai contract

By Peter Hill

Hopes of a consortium of British Companies, led by the National Enterprise Board and involving GEC and Rio Tinto-Zinc, securing a valuable Middle East contract in the NEB's first overseas foray appear to have foundered.

Lord Ryder, NEB chairman, negotiated a one-third stake in the joint venture company to bid for a valuable contract for the construction of a 180 megawatt power station and associated desalination water plant in Dubai for the Dubai Electric Corporation.

The British consortium put in a *late tender after a special* extension of the bid dates, but the competition is fierce from Austrian, Italian, German and Japanese companies. The Japanese are thought as being most likely to win the contract. It is understood that the United Kingdom bid was fifth lowest out of a total of six submitted.

Although the NEB would not comment officially yesterday on the progress of the negotiations, the board is not very hopeful.

The NEB has been made aware of the good will for British industry which exists in the Middle East particularly, and among other developing countries.

It is involved in the formation of another consortium which is bidding for a contract outside the Middle East, for which hopes are high. The NEB is to appoint an official soon to deal almost exclusively with overseas contract work.

Lord Ryder reckons that about £600m worth of business on offer overseas in the past 18 months has lacked a United Kingdom tender. A far larger volume of business is at present in the pipeline for which the NEB will be pressing British companies to submit tenders.

Terrorist 'cost Dutch order'

The Hague, Feb 26.—Holland lost a possible Indonesian shipbuilding order valued at around $75m (about £37.5m) as a result of the South Moluccan siege of the Indonesian consulate in Amsterdam in December, the Dutch Economics Ministry said today.

A spokesman said that Mr Ruud Lubbers, Economics Minister, assumed this was due to "a dent in the relations with Indonesia" following the 16-day siege in which an Indonesian diplomat died.

Indonesian officials in The Hague, however, said the order for the construction of coasters which the Dutch appeared likely to get, had been given to Norway because of more favourable terms.

Shipbuilding merger: Agreement on merging two shipbuilding yards of Rijn-Schelde-Verolme Machinefabrieken en Scheepswerven, NV (RSV) with Van der Giessen De Noord, NV is expected shortly, according to sources at the Banking Commission, which is studying the plan.

The Commission, which was set up in 1972, proposed last September that Giessen take over the two RSV yards and give RSV a 30 per cent stake in its doubled capital, with the Dutch state taking 20 per cent.

MPs visit Chrysler UK truck plants

By Edward Townsend

Management of Chrysler UK's commercial vehicle division, generally regarded as the most successful part of the *troubled motor group, admitted* to MPs visiting the Dunstable and Luton plant in Bedfordshire yesterday that they had no idea whether or not the division made a profit.

Mr Aubrey Jacques, director of truck manufacturing, said he might feel "more self-satisfied" to know that his division was making a profit while the rest of the company was not: "But it won't help the company as a whole."

What concerned him was keeping within the budget laid down by Chrysler UK. He agreed that profits made by the truck plants could be "siphoned off" to support the Linwood car assembly operation in Scotland without his knowledge.

Mr Jacques and a management team were giving evidence to the trade and industry subcommittee of the Commons Expenditure *Committee, which* was touring the plants as part of its inquiry into the state-backed rescue scheme.

Both management and shop stewards at the plants said they were not consulted about the scheme. Mr Jacques said he was not called upon to provide sales forecasts, production schedules or capital expenditure plans and the first he heard of the final rescue deal was the announcement in the Commons.

The subcommittee, which has already toured Chrysler UK's Coventry factories and is to visit Linwood next week, is to question Mr Gilbert Hunt, the Chrysler UK chairman and Mr Don Lander, managing director.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Real story behind hotels incentive scheme

From Mr R. W. B. Fraser

Sir, I am amused to see, in your columns on February 24, that the able and amiable Mr Eric Bernard of Grand Metropolitan Hotels has taken a swipe at the hotel development incentive scheme. The real story is more complex and intriguing than his remarks suggest.

At a time when the hotel industry *is making* renewed representations to the Government it is important to understand where the blame for excesses under the hotel development incentive scheme should lie.

The forerunner of the HDI scheme was the hotel loans and grants scheme which was cumbersome and: when consulted, the hotel industry pleaded for aid and, at the same time, freedom of action. *Consequently the* HDI scheme was designed to have a minimum of bureaucratic controls. There were three principal regulators which should have curbed excesses.

These were first, the normal commercial judgment of the hotel companies who wanted to provide new hotels, secondly, the powers *vested in the planning* authorities and thirdly, the conventional wisdom and prudence of the suppliers of capital.

It is scarcely the fault of politicians and civil servants that, in a number of cases, the three regulators failed simultaneously. In fact, the failure of the third is the most interesting and complex of the three be*cause it is linked to the* widespread abandonment of conventional banking methods which has caused well publicized traumas in banking and industry.

Happily there are a number of companies, including our own, who took advantage of the scheme to build hotels which are demonstrably of the right type and in the right places and were completed prior to the *phenomenal rise in building* costs.

Yours faithfully,
RODERICK W. B. FRASER,
Director,
Centre Hotels (Cranston),
Centre House,
57 Russell Square,
London, WC1B 4JG,
February 25.

Barge transport would be of 'inestimable value'

From Cmdr E. Mack

Sir, Mr Williams's letter of February 23 under the heading "BACAT: time to break the deadlock" is much to be welcomed.

It was depressing to read some months ago that the BACAT parent ship had withdrawn from the Humber as a result of pressure from the dockers. Far from being a threat to increase unemployment, an efficient transport system could enormously help our exports and so improve employment prospects as a whole.

In south Derbyshire we have been hoping for an extension of navigation in the Trent as far as Burton-on-Trent. The Severn-Trent Water Authority's preliminary investigations have been aimed, in the first place, at pleasure craft, but at a meeting with the authority in July last year a number of interested organizations pressed that the locks and depth of water should be made suitable for BACAT barges.

The barges can reach Nottingham, but not if fully loaded; it is hoped that work on the river to obtain the proper depth will go on.

With the present financial stringency and other problems, a system of this type, which would enable barges to be loaded far inland, carried across the North Sea, and transported by canal far inland on the continent (the Danube is to be within reach shortly) could be of inestimable value to this country. There would be fuel economy, encouragement for export and a benefit to the environment through fewer lorries on the roads.

Yours faithfully,
E. MACK,
Osleston House,
Dalbury Lees,
Derby, DE6 5BN.
February 25.

Tax relief on rail fares

From Mr D. Redman

Sir, Professor Rowe's suggestion (February 24) presents practical difficulties. A more effective way of helping the hard-pressed would be to increase the personal allowances by an annual cost of living supplement related to the rise in the index of retail prices in the previous calendar year. This would be simple to administer, and would give help where it was most needed.

Yours truly,
DAVID REDMAN,
71 Langley Way,
Watford,
Hertfordshire,
February 24.

Not on t poverty at £3,42(

From Ms R. Lister

Sir, On February carried an advertise the heading "The Mandarins". Micha 'Millionaire No 1', on social security he more than his prese £3,420. This is a g leading statement f one who is actually of the DHSS and therefore know bett

If eligible for ment benefit, a m Mackin's position ceive £25.50 a week unemployment ben after the first two for the first six mo maximum of £10.2 earnings related Over a year this him an income of some tax rebate. mentary benefit, he ceive the princely £1,407 a year plus h interest (not capital provided they are his rates and a payr pairs and insuranc year.

True, Mr Mackin tax on most of though he will also come tax relief on gage interest payme doubt very much wh taking into account burden of taxation average earnings, would be brought d level of £1,400-£ annum. He ma millionaire, but he nor on the poverty To suggest that h serves to reinforce about the "afflu security claimant".

Yours faithfully,
RUTH LISTER,
Assistant Director,
Child Poverty Actio
1 Macklin Street,
Drury Lane,
London WC2B 5NH
February 25.

So why not revive the obsolete in

From Mr M. J. Koc

Sir, I strongly suppo Ewing's plea for multiple of the mi normal applications: the unit should b metres, not 10? Th must, of course, ha and I suggest the obsolete "inch".

Yours faithfully,
M. J. KOCHANSKI,
Balliol College,
Oxford.
February 20.

Commercial and Business Market

Business Notices

One of the LEADING HI-FI STUDIOS in Western Germany (expected annual turnover in 1976: 10 million DM approx.) is seeking PERMANENT BUSINESS PARTNER who can supply Japanese, European and American Hi-Fi equipment (tuners, amplifiers, receivers, record-players, loud-speakers etc.) in great numbers.

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A SOUND INVESTMENT.—Young couple seek understanding sponsor to assist in privately educating two sons.—Box 1909 S, The Times.

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Commercial Property

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OFFICES

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COMPANY NOTICES

THE SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY
109 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN.

Notice is hereby given that the 93rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Members of The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society will be held within the Central Hotel, Gordon Street, Glasgow, on WEDNESDAY, the [illegible] day of March nineteen hundred and seventy six at 12.15 o'clock afternoon to approve the Accounts, Balance Sheet and Reports of the Directors and Auditors, to re-elect Directors and to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.

Printed copies of the Society's Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet and Directors' Report can be obtained by Members at the Head Office of the Society or at any of its Branch Offices.

A Member of the Society entitled to attend and vote at any General Meeting is entitled to appoint *another person (who need not be a* Member of the Society) to attend and vote instead of him. Proxies must be lodged at the Head Office of the Society not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the Meeting.

The attention of Members wishing to attend is drawn to Regulations 23 and 24 of the Scottish Mutual Assurance Society Act 1952.

By Order of the Board.
R. E. MACDONALD,
General Manager and Actuary.

THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that a Dividend on the REGISTERED STOCK on Thursday, 4th March, *1976 for the preparation of the* half-year dividend payable on the 9½% FIRST PREFERENCE SHARES for the six months ending 31st March, 1976. The dividend will be paid on 31st April, 1976.

For Transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrars, Messrs. Lloyds Bank Limited, Registrar's Department, The Causeway, Worthing, Sussex, not later than 3.00 p.m. on Friday, 4th March, 1976.

As regards the rate of Advance Corporation Tax the dividend will be paid on the same basis as previous dividends. [illegible] per annum as preference dividends have been paid since 6th April, 1973.

By Order of the Board
A. R. HARVEY
Secretary
Shell Centre,
London, SE1 7NA
20th February, 1976

DIVIDEND NOTICES

FALCONBRIDGE

DIVIDEND NUMBER 122

Notice is hereby given that a quarterly dividend of Twenty-Five Cents (25¢) per share has been declared by the Board of Directors of Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited, payable in Canadian funds on March 31, 1976 to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 12, 1976.

By Order of the Board
G. T. N. Woodroaffe
Secretary

Toronto, Canada
February 16, 1976

TRANSFER BOOKS

THE EAST SURREY WATER COMPANY
CLOSING OF STOCK TRANSFER BOOKS

Notice is hereby given that the REGISTERS of 6.5% (formerly 6%) Redeemable Preference Stock 1977 and 8% Redeemable Preference Stock 1980 will be CLOSED from the 12th to the 25th March, 1976, both dates inclusive.

By Order of the Board.
L. F. M. FOSTER,
Secretary.
Redhill, Surrey.
27th February, 1976.

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL BILLS
Issued 25 February, 1976. £3.0m
Bills due 25 May at 8.47.
Applications £38m.
Outstanding Bills £10m.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE BILLS
Issued 26 February 1976 £6.75m
Bills due 26 May at average rate of 8.75%
Applications £40.5m. Outstanding Bills £6.75m.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS PASTORAL MEASURE 1968

The Church Commissioners have PREPARED a DRAFT REDUNDANCY SCHEME which contains provision for the care and maintenance of the parish church of the former parish of St. James with St Matthew and Holy Trinity, Toxteth Park in the diocese of Liverpool by the Redundant Churches Fund.

A copy of the draft Scheme may be obtained from the Commissioners or may be inspected at St. Philemon's Vicarage, 40 Devonshire Road, Liverpool, L8 3TZ.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Commissioners at 1 Millbank, London SW1P 3JZ to reach them not later than 29 March 1976.

PASTORAL MEASURE 1968

The Church Commissioners have PREPARED a DRAFT REDUNDANCY SCHEME which contains provision for the appropriation of the redundant church of Holy Trinity, Great Woolstone, to use for public, civic or community purposes.

A copy of the draft Scheme may be obtained from the Commissioners or may be inspected at The Rectory, Aspuliton Park, Milton Keynes MK19 6EW.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Commissioners at 1 Millbank, London SW1P 3JZ, to reach them not later than 29th March, 1976.

FULTON MATTHEW MORRIS

Will any member of the family or near relation of the late Matthew Morris Fulton of 10 Grove Road, Surbiton Surrey who died on 7th April, 1943 and his widow, Mrs. Lilly Lawrence Fulton who at that date resided at 14 Grove Road aforesaid and who we believe is now deceased, communicate with Messrs. A. C. White Sibree, Coward & Cash, Solicitors, 25 Wellington Square, Ayr. Telephone 0292 86000

NOTICE

All Advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

LEGAL NOTICES

In the HIGH COURT of JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court In the Matters of: No 00536 of 1976 LENICOURT INVESTMENTS Limited, No 00538 of 1976 LIFETIME PROPERTY INVESTMENT CO. Limited, No 00533 of 1976 MILLER AND PEDEL DECORATORS Limited, No 00531 of 1976 ROXBOROUGH DEVELOPMENT COMPANY Limited, No 00540 of 1976 BOLERICK Limited, No 00537 of 1976 GLENBANK FURNISHERS Limited, No 00528 of 1976 HALEBRAE Limited, No 00529 of 1976 ISLET PARK INVESTMENTS Limited and In the Matter of the Companies Act, 1948.

Notice is hereby given that PETITIONS for the WINDING UP of the above named Companies by the High Court of Justice were on the 16th day of February 1976 presented to the said Court by The Commissioners of Inland Revenue, of Somerset House, Strand, London, WC2R 1LB, and that the said Petitions are directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, on the 23rd day of March 1976, and any creditor or contributory of any of the said Companies desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on any of the said Petitions may appear at the time of hearing in person or by his Counsel, for that purpose, and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of any of the said Companies requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

ERIC MOSES, Solicitor of Inland Revenue, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LB.

NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of any of the said Petitions must serve on or send by post to the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 19th day of March 1976.

A. F. BUCKINGHAM LIMITED (IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION).

Notice is hereby given that I intend to make a FINAL DISTRIBUTION to the Members of the above-named Company, which is being wound up voluntarily, of the remaining surplus of assets over liabilities and Share Capital paid up. All known Creditors have been paid in full but any person, firm or Company claiming to be a Creditor is required on or before the 31st day of March 1976 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their claims in the undersigned Henry William Charles Bartlett, 3, Eden Court, Ecclesor Road, Meads, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 7YD, the Liquidator of the said Company or in default they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

H. W. C. BARTLETT,
Liquidator.

NOTICE pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 re Frank Joseph Stratton decd.

Any person having any CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of FRANK JOSEPH STRATTON late of 12B Wellsway, Bath, Avon, who died on the 13th day of March, 1975 is required to send particulars thereof to Messrs. F. S. & R. A. Ingle, 14 Charlotte Street, Bath on or before the 1st May 1976 after which date the estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

F. S. & R. A. INGLE,
14 Charlotte Street, Bath,
Avon.
Solicitors.

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1967 JOHNNY MARSH (PECKHAM) Limited

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 293 of the Companies Act 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situate at 3/4 Bentinck Street, London, W1M 6JE on Friday, the 12th day of March, 1976 at 12 midday for the purposes mentioned in sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.

Date this 20th day of February, 1976.

By Order of the Board.
C. B. SCHAVERIEN,
Director.

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1967 WEALDEN VALLEY EGGS Limited.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 293 of the Companies Act 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held at 100 Park Street, London, W1Y 4SS on Tuesday, the 23rd day of March 1976, at 11.00 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.

Dated this 17th day of February 1976.

By Order of the Board.
A. K. BEAVIS
Director

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 00641 of 1976
IN THE HIGH COURT of JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court In the Matter of EUROSILVER *Limited and in the Matter of the* Companies Act, 1948.

Notice is hereby given that a PETITION for the WINDING UP of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 24th day of February 1976 presented to the said Court by The Solicitors' Law Stationery Society Limited.

And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, W.C.2, on the 29th day of March 1976, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by his Counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition *will be furnished by the undersigned* to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

RUBENS, WELL & GAMPELL,
31 Mincing Lane, London,
E.C.3.

NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve or send by post to the above-named, notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any), and must be served or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock *in the afternoon of the 26th day* of March 1976.

GREAT NORTHERN LONDON CEMETERY COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the PROPRIETORS of the Great Northern London Cemetery Company will be held at 3 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2, on Wednesday, the 17th day of March, Nineteen Hundred and seventy-six at 3 p.m. for the purpose of considering the Bill now before Parliament entitled "An Act to confirm an agreement between the Great Northern London Cemetery Company and New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium Limited for the reorganisation and future administration of the cemetery administered by the first-mentioned company under the Great Northern London Cemetery Acts 1855 to 1968; to confer powers on the second-mentioned company with respect to the said cemetery; to authorise the first-mentioned company to dispose of surplus lands; and for other purposes."

At such Meeting the said Bill will be submitted for the consideration and approval of the Proprietors subject to such additions alterations and variations as Parliament may think fit to make therein.

H. T. MAY,
Secretary.

Dated 9th February 1976.

No 003670 of 1975
In the HIGH COURT of JUSTICE Chancery Division Group A In the Matter of GADEK RUBBER ESTATE, Limited and In the Matter of the Companies Act 1948.

Notice is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, dated 19th January 1976, CONFIRMING the REDUCTION of the CAPITAL of the above-named Company from £390,000 to £22,400.50 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above Statute were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 23rd February, 1976.

ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP & CO., 17 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2N 2DD. Solicitors for the *above-named Company.*

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1967 CALDER CONTRACTORS Limited

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 293 of the Companies Act 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situate at 3/4 Bentinck Street, London, W1M 6JE on Wednesday, the 10th day of March 1976, at 12 o'clock midday for the purposes mentioned in sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.

Dated this 20th day of February 1976

By Order of the Board
R. YOUNG
Director

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AS LIQUIDATOR

In the Matter of J. M. SUNTER (COMMERCIAL SERVICES) Limited (In liquidation) By Order of the High Court of Justice dated the 19th day of January 1976 [illegible] Birmingham, in the County of [illegible] COMMITTEE of INSPECTION

LEGAL NOTICES

NEW SOUTHGATE CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM LIMITED

NOTICE is hereby given in compliance with the STANDING ORDERS of Parliament that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium Limited will be held at 2 Broad Street Place, London, EC2, on Wednesday, the 17th day of March, 1976, at 2.45 p.m. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following Resolution as a Special Resolution:—

"That the Bill intituled 'An Act to confirm an Agreement between the Great Northern London Cemetery Company and New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium Limited for the reorganisation and future administration of the cemetery administered by the first-mentioned company under the Great Northern London Cemetery Acts 1855 to 1968; to confer powers on the second-mentioned company with respect to the said cemetery; to authorise the first-mentioned company to dispose of surplus lands and for other purposes' as applied for by the Great Northern London Cemetery Company in the month of November 1975 and as presented to the House of Lords is hereby approved subject to such additions, alterations and variations as Parliament may think fit to make therein."

A copy of the Bill will be submitted at the Meeting for the consideration of the members of the Company present in person or by proxy.

H. T. MAY,
Secretary.
Dated 9th February, 1976.

In the Matter of UNLIMITED SOUND Limited and in the Matter of The Companies Act 1948.

Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above-named Company which is being VOLUNTARILY WOUND UP, are required, on or before the 19th day of March, 1976, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any) to the undersigned GEORGE ALFRED WALE, F.C.C.A., of 4 Staple Inn, Staple Inn Buildings, London, W.C.1, the JOINT LIQUIDATOR of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 20th day of February, 1976.

Philip Montack, F.C.A.
George Alfred Wale F.C.C.A.
Liquidators.

Appointments Vacant

also on page 23

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

The Queen's University of Belfast

CHAIR OF LATIN

Applications are invited for the Chair of Latin from 1st October, 1976, or such other date as may be arranged. The vacancy is occasioned by the retirement of Professor M. Boyd. The salary is £8,505 with contributory pension rights under the F.S.S.U.[illegible]

Applications should be received by 30th March, 1976. Assistance is available with removal expenses.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, The Queen's University of Belfast, BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland. (Please quote Ref. 76/[illegible])

The Times Special Reports

All the subject matter on all the subjects that matter

UNIVERSITY AP

University o Lesotho and

Applications a

LECTURE DEPARTM GEOGR

tenable from Au Swaziland can be specialized in [illegible] Human Geo particular emph Development [illegible] Preference will [illegible] those with com ulation Dynam Analysis and [illegible] raphy, but app candidates with ence will be should be willin alytical Techniq [illegible] including Statistics, Air Maps. The syer contact hours p about 12. Appli to do research, relation [illegible] which full depar will be given. Some demonstr departmental or administration a scale. £5,[illegible] (£1 sterling [illegible] British Gr supplement sala lain circumstanc children's hol [illegible] sages. 25 per c [illegible] of superann [illegible] at pr education allo [illegible] passages: pl Detailed appli copies), includin vitae and [illegible] referees should by airmail, not March, 1976. [illegible] Registrar, [illegible] Rd, Kwatusel Applicants resi should also ser Inter-Universit [illegible] Tottenham Co don, W1P 0DT [illegible] name be either address.

The Univers

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CHAIR J

61 REPLIES!!

This advertisement was placed in The Times Commercial and Business Market Place. This is what Mr. P. R. Austin of Field, Stream & Covert (England) Ltd said:

"We are writing to let you know that we have had an excellent response to our advertissment, inserted in the Business Opportunities section."

"We have already received 61 requests for the Booklet. . . ."

"We are thoroughly delighted with such a response, and will certainly use you columns for future advertising."

THE TIMES Commercial & Business Market appears daily if you want to reach Business men

Ring 01-278 9231

ask for Sally Fenn or Louise Lang

and let The Times help your company.

Cod War, Why Bother? Grow Our Own Fish

A booklet entitled "A New Concept in Fish Farming Technology" has just been published. The equipment and knowledge is now available, providing the opportunity for the individual to farm fish at a low cost.

For brochure and further details apply: FIELD & STREAM (COVERT (ENGLAND) LTD), Fish Farming Managers and Engineers, Meriden, Warwickshire. Tel. Hampton-in-Arden 2362

هكذا من الاصل

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Not on th
poverty li
at £3,420

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Anglo American provides an antidote

...s company after company re...orts a sharp profits reversal ...s a result of the depressed ...evel of gold and base metal ...rices and the storm-clouds ...ontinue to darken over Central ...d Southern Africa, there has ...een precious little to cheer up ...e mining sector. Yesterday's ...ull-year figures from Anglo-...merican, however, should ...ome as a slight antidote to ...is spate of bad news.

Earnings per share of 64.1 ...nts compared with the pre-...ous year's 57.4 cents are much ...etter than indicaetd at the ...alf-way stage in September ...hen topped most outside esti-...ates. But what is likely to ...ause even more interest is ...e generous increase in the ...ividend from 29 to 33 cents.

What is also impressive is ...at the increase in pre-tax pro-...ts from R83.9m to R92.1m has ...een achieved despite a sharp ...tback in sharedealing profits ...om R705,000 in 1974 to an in-...ignificant R85,000 in the wake ...the much quieter gold share ...arket over the last year. This ...so accounts for the lower tax ...harge of R4.4m, so profits after ...ax are up by 11 per cent to ...R87.7m.

Where Anglo, of course, ...ores when metal prices are ...; a downward trek is that vir-...ally all its income is from ...ividends which are far more ...table than, for example, Rio ...into-Zinc's earnings which ...depend on the profitability of ...operating companies. With ...he majority of its dividends ...oming from other layers of ...he Anglo empire, which them-...selves have very strong dividend ...over, Anglo's investment ...income grows like Topsy.

Thus in the year to the end ...December investment income ...10.8 per cent ahead at R81.2m ...anks to higher payments from ...gold, the diamond interests ...De Beers and Anamint ...which also paid an extra divi-...end last year when it brought ...financial year into line with ...Beers), and the industrial ...interests held through Amic; ...d there will have been a ...valuation boost from the ...arter interim as well.

Plainly, as a microcosm of ...the whole South African ...conomy, the current year will ...at best a holding one for ...Anglo with only the diamond ...interests likely to improve ...ignificantly on last year.

At 275p, down another 15p ...yesterday on the Rhodesian ...rubles, the yield is 6.8 per ...cent and the p/e ratio 7.6 and ...that does not soon begin to ...attract the United Kingdom ...investor, who appears to have ...been more unsettled by the ...last political convulsions than ...the United States or European ...counterparts, but for those ...tempted the dollar premium the ...yield of 10.5 per cent and p/e ...of 4.9 looks almost ...irresistible.

...1:
...pitalization £362m
...come R106.2m (R96.6m)
...tax profits R92.1m (R83.9m)
...nings per share 64.1 cents (57.4 cents)
...dend gross 33 cents (29 cents)
...lts in South African Rands

Mr Harry Oppenheimer, Chairman of Anglo American: yield attractions.

of the Docks Board on the grounds that its responsibilities were not just to shareholders, but also to employees, customers and the general welfare of the port.

With a bid now on the table of a substantially higher 175p a share in equity, plus a further 15p if the Docks Board's bid lapses, it is becoming hard to see how those objections can still hold good. Take shareholders first. Not only is the value of European Ferries' offer significantly higher, but if the deal goes ahead, they should also get their shares/money within a month or two. The Docks Board's bid cannot be completed until a Bill has passed through Parliament and on the most optimistic reading that could not be before July. It could well be as late as November.

In the meantime, the Docks Board's bid prevents Felixstowe from paying a further dividend, while shareholders taking up their European Ferries share entitlement would rank for a final dividend payment in July, worth 4.7p a Felixstowe share. There would also be the knowledge that European Ferries has emerged from a year which, it now forecasts, beat the earlier projection of £6.0m (against £4.23m the year before) by £300,000.

For the employees it offers the same undertakings as the Docks Board, and the unions have voted to adopt a neutral stance. Against this sort of argument, the case for European Ferries' offer being accepted looks overwhelming.

Alexander Howden
Takeover benefits to come

Alexander Howden is comfortably within the forecast made at the time of the Halford Shead acquisition that profits for last year would exceed £10m, excluding Shead of course. However, the £10.8m actual outcome is in line with outside expectations of around £10½m and the shares rose just 2p to 132p on the results.

To a certain extent these results are of academic interest as it is the impact of Halford Shead on Howden that the market is really looking to. First indications appeared to be that there might be some initial earnings dilution, but the prospects for growth and economies in combining the two businesses appeared to outweigh that potential disadvantage.

Indeed, the whole rationale of Howden's recent policy of expansion through acquisition—of Morice Tozer & Beck as well as Halford Shead—looks promising for the longer term. By buying broking concerns with strong existing links with underwriters, Howden is arguably going a good way towards pre-empting the looming capacity problems which the underwriting market is confronted with because of inflation.

A par p/e ratio of just under 10 then and a yield which, at 2.7 per cent, is a couple of points below the insurance broking sector average are arguably of less interest than Howden's long-term growth attractions *vis-à-vis* its competitors.

Final: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £75.4m
Pre-tax profits £10.8m (£8.1m)
Earnings per share 13.33p (9.02p)
Dividend gross 3.56p (3.42p)

Last night's agreed cash offer for Coated Metals from C. Walker of 143p a share is almost 70 per cent more than Walker's opening shot last month. So shareholders in Coated Metal are being offered an exit at 11½ times forecast earnings and should accept.

This happy outcome for Coated Metals which quite rightly said that Walker's first offer was out of court and looked like saying the same about the second try of 125p a share, shows once again that small specialist companies can hold out for good offers and get them. They are about the only ones attracting the interest of predators these days and Sheffield Twist Permali and now Coated Metals, advised by Morgan Grenfell, have all demonstrated that there is no need to sell out cheaply.

Horizon Midlands
Survivors' spoils

Horizon Midlands faithfuls who took up the consortium shares offered them last spring at 16.75p a share ought to be able to afford a holiday at last. For after the indastry's disasters of 1974, which at one point sent the HM share price into single figures—against a May, 1972, offer for sale price of 70p—the shares, up 10½p yesterday on the 1974/75 profit recovery, have now rallied to 46½p. So any investor who subscribed for shares in 1972 and took up last spring's offering as well is, forgetting inflation for a moment, finally showing some appreciation on his investment.

The background to the recovery has, of course, been last summer's boom in sales for the survivors of the 1974 shake-out. As far as HM was concerned that meant a 44 per cent rise in summer bookings over the depressed figure for 1973 and an improvement in the aircraft loading factor from under 90 to 93 per cent. In turn these two factors duly turned themselves into a 64 per cent advance in monetary receipts and (pre- the Spanish currency provision) a near six fold leap in pre-tax profits.

Whether HM can now hold its position in the current year, however, is another matter. For though winter holidays are expected to work out roughly a quarter up on last year, the best of the increase came early on and fell into last year's profits.

Meanwhile, summer bookings are roughly level pegging with last year, though, surprisingly enough, HM has seen a marginal swing away from cheaper destinations like Spain to more expensive holiday areas such as Greece. Albeit that the dividend is covered almost five times, the yield of 8½ per cent appears a fair reflection of 1976 prospects.

Final: 1974/5 1973/4
Capitalization £2m
Sales £12.7m (£7.75m)
Pre-tax profits £1.05m (£0.2m)
Earnings per share 11.2p (1.93p)
Dividend gross 3.97p (2.58p)

...lixstowe Dock
...rries puts case

...stowe Dock and Railway's ...d met yesterday to consider ...formal offer document from ...pean Ferries and will be ...ng its recommendations to ...eholders next week. It has, ...ourse, already turned down ...approach from European ...es, but it will be little ...of astonishing if it does ...gain.

...e first approach was ...ently pitched some 5p ...the rival 150p a share ...from the British Trans-Docks Board. But while ...5p looks worth having, ...stowe justified its decision ...rn the bid down in favour

Margaret Walters analyses the causes for the failure of Brentford Nylons

When flair and salesmanship are not enough

"The company concentrated on sales and production to the exclusion of finance and the lack of up-to-date knowledge of the serious position was only realized when it was too late."

That statement might be a suitable epitaph on the rise and fall of Brentford Nylons, the household goods firm that collapsed suddenly earlier this week.

It was in fact uttered more than a decade ago over the corpse of another well-known consumer empire, John Bloom's washing machine group Rolls Razor, by Mr Kenneth Cork, who is ironically enough, now receiver to Brentford, the latest in a long line of companies which have gone for sales at any cost—and paid the price.

Commentators too have not been slow to spot the parallels with the Cyril Lord carpets company collapse in 1968, some four years after Rolls Razor's spectacular failure. There are some especially pertinent comparisons between the way Cyril Lord and the Brentford Nylons businesses were run.

Both integrated their manufacturing and retailing operations, for example. And, like Rolls Razor, their early success was due to fortuitous timing; an ability to spot an untapped market. And then, of course, a determination to keep up the pace of sales through heavy advertising and publicity at the expense of almost everything else. The entrepreneurial nature of such operations often makes it difficult to establish any ongoing financial management to cope with the eventual scale of the businesses.

Looking back at the final twitchings of the Rolls Razor and Cyril Lord companies as disaster loomed it is amazing how, apart from in the City where the share prices accurately anticipated the worst, the public assailed by a heavy promotional effort to the last, had little hint that anything was amiss.

All three groups were essentially one-product companies whose founders seemed true to the traditions of the modern commercial fairytale. In the case of Brentford, the Armenian Metrebian family seized on the possibilities of nylon in the early 1950s and with heavy advertising and a mail order campaign captured a huge share of the markets that developed for sheets and shirts made in the new fibre.

In the 1960s Cyril Lord, "the carpet king", built up a near monopoly in tufted carpets. John Bloom challenged the big domestic appliance manufacturers, Hoover, English Electric (as it then was), Hotpoint and Philips by assembling and selling, again through direct advertising, the new twin tub washing machines that every housewife coveted and which the majors were failing to turn out in sufficient volume or at a reasonable price for the mass market opening up in the United Kingdom for consumer durables.

But when automatic washing machines came on the market John Bloom completely failed to take up the challenge, and indeed his numerous diversificationary ventures, ranging from cosmetics to central heating, were unqualified flops. The very success of these groups in capturing large shares of their chosen markets meant that new products had to be found.

Cyril Lord is remembered for the "Cyrilawn" simulated grass that turned an unfortunate shade of blue. But more significant was the move into retailing which produced the same sort of problems that Brentford experienced.

The textile industry has been deeply sceptical about the wisdom of Brentford's relatively recent establishment of a chain of shops stocking its own manufactured goods. The Cyril Lord experience, they claim, proves the incompatibility of the manufacturing and retailing mentality.

Shoppers apparently require the sort of wide choice that one manufacturer cannot economically provide. Apart from this specific factor, all super growth products inevitably settle down to a less spectacular pattern once a certain amount of market penetration has been achieved. Then the main problem for these three groups emerged.

Their heavy promotional efforts, some of them the most spectacular as well as the most lucrative that the United Kingdom advertising business has seen, were geared to achieving a certain level of sales. A relatively small decline in turnover can wreck profit and cash flow projections.

In the case of Cyril Lord, sales of £10.8m in 1966 yielded pre-tax profits of £1.3m. A small fall to £10.3m in sales the following year resulted in a severe reduction to £458,000 in profits as the margin collapsed and the £10m figure shown for its last year of operation resulted in a devastating £500,000 loss.

Cyril Lord's advertising, at its 1966 peak of £800,000, was three or four times the level of its nearest competitor.

Brentford too was the most heavily promoted company in its own sector before it cut its advertising budget from an astronomical £3.3m (when profits were just under £1m) to a still large £1.2m (when profits had fallen to around £330,000) last year.

In 1963/64, the year John Bloom's empire crashed, Rolls Razor was operating on a budget that anticipated doubled volume of washing machines, at a time when he held nearly a fifth of the United Kingdom's market and the competitive forces were massing against him. Rolls Razor, Cyril Lord and Brentford all reacted in much the same unfortunate way when sales growth started flagging. In the case of Brentford management tried to buy sales by a drastic cut in prices, while continuing heavy promotion. But competition from manufacturers of newer fibres and fibre mixtures as well as from imports led to falling sales and, it is thought, hefty losses last year.

The continuing faith that all these groups appear to have placed in advertising despite the warning signals on the sales and cash flow front has perhaps much to do with the near total powers wielded by their originators, who perhaps do not single handedly possess all the necessary skills to operate a business, and who are, of course, reluctant to accept that their brain child has lost some of its commercial charm.

Key features of such groups are often an almost casual attention to financial controls which only become more of a problem the larger the business grows, and the lack of any real management beneath the individual entrepreneur.

They are inevitably ...r capitalized. Brentford, forced to compete in the import threatened polyester cotton sector, was clearly having difficuty servicing debt on its new Newcastle factory. In the past the now disbanded mail order operation had provided the classic method of self financing.

John Bloom and Cyril Lord both experienced problems in hire purchase and, as their groups expanded built up overheads not incurred in the original simple operation. The ultimate result was a fatal liquidity squeeze.

In all these cases crisis might have been averted if the extraordinary, if temporary, marketing flair and salesmanship of the entrepreneurs had been balanced by rather more traditional financial skills.

Designing concrete for the rigours of the North Sea

In the development of North Sea oil and gas platforms, design and construction have raced ahead of research and development. "There is not the same depth of development work to back up design procedures; everything has happened so quickly", scientists at the Cement and Concrete Association told the Department of Industry in August, 1974.

In a report commissioned by the Department's Ship and Marine Technology Requirements Board, they went on to recommend 10 specific research projects to help bridge the offshore technology gap.

This week the Department of Energy acted on seven of the 10 recommendations, announcing a two-year research programme on aspects of the use of concrete as a structural material for offshore platforms. The department is providing £200,000 towards the cost of the programme, with industry contributing the remaining £100,000.

Overall, the Department of Energy disclosed, the government is providing over £2.6m over the next three years for R and D on fixed offshore structures. Of this, over £2m is going into an offshore steels research programme based on the Welding Institute and the National Engineering Laboratory.

Other existing research into steel structures includes studies of buckling at Glasgow and Cambridge universities, and measurements on an operational platform in the Forties Field by British Petroleum.

The new investigations into concrete structures stem directly from the 1974 report, *Concrete in the oceans*, which was written by Dr G. Somerville and Dr H. P. J. Taylor of the Cement and Concrete Association.

Existing technology of reinforced and prestressed concrete was being applied in the novel situation of gravity platforms in the North Sea, they pointed out, with consequent problems caused by the types of structures, their size, and above all the hostile environment in which they were placed.

In the design phase, there are both structural and material problems.

Structural design starts with a calculation of the loads on the structure—the effects of wind, waves and currents as well as the normal loads.

Next stage in the design is the analysis of the structure itself, in order to determine the internal forces. Powerful analytical methods are available for this, but the accuracy with which the environmental loads are known is limited.

Designing sections to handle the internal forces is generally straightforward, but the unique combination of shapes and loads encountered means that shear forces are more important than in conventional structures.

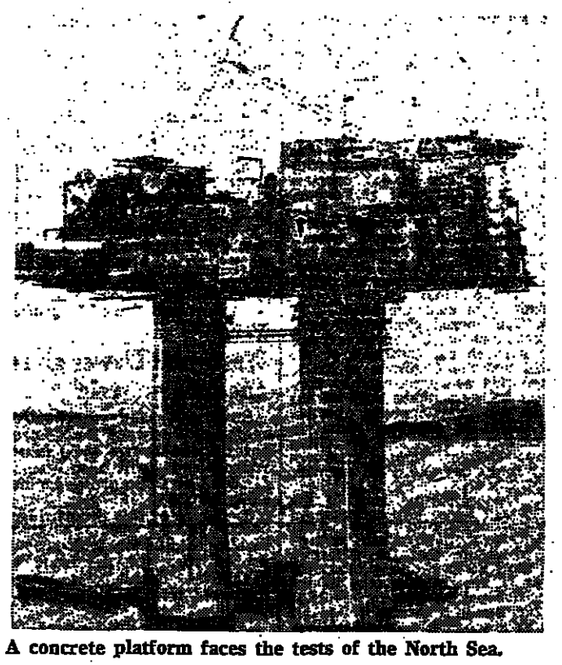
One of the seven research projects is therefore aimed at investigating the strength of large, prestressed concrete towers in shear. This would provide useful design guidance.

The fatigue strength of structural concrete under the randomly varying sea and wind loads, the CCA authors reported in 1974, "is causing concern to designers at present, both from the viewpoint of fatigue life in the marine environment and because of the effect repeated reversals of load could have on crack widths".

On land, the fatigue strength of structural concrete has in general proved so good that fatigue can be ignored in design; but there is no assurance that the same is true for offshore structures. Thus a second research project will investigate the fatigue strength of reinforced and prestressed concrete in water.

On the materials side, the basic requirements for concrete in the oceans are the same as on land—adequate strength, durability and reinforcement protection. But they are harder to meet because of environmental factors such as salt water, temperature and pressure.

More data on the influence of sea water on structural concrete would be valuable to designers. Much could be gained from a survey of existing reinforced concrete structures in the sea (such as the Thames forts and the Mulberry Harbour units, built over 30 years ago); this will be done in another of the new research projects.



A concrete platform faces the tests of the North Sea.

In addition, there are two specific problem areas in materials where research is urgently needed; these concern corrosion and temperature effects.

On corrosion, two lines of approach are being adopted. One project will investigate the fundamental mechanisms of corrosion of reinforcement embedded in concrete. Much existing knowledge is fragmented; it needs to be integrated to give a basic understanding of the processes involved.

The second corrosion project will be related more directly to the offshore concrete platform, and will aim to establish minimum levels of corrosion protection for design purposes. Among other things, it will study the influence on corrosion of environmental conditions, concrete cover, workmanship, type of reinforcement, steel stress and air entrainment; and establish whether crack width is related to corrosion.

When concrete structures are used for storing fuels, temperature gradients can be a problem. With hot, crude oil on one side of a concrete wall and the sea on the other, the temperature difference can be 45°C.

At the other extreme, if concrete is used for storing or transporting liquid natural gas, temperatures down to minus 160°C can be encountered.

Theoretically, these temperature differences produce sufficiently high stresses to cause the concrete to crack. Does this in fact occur, and if so how can the crack widths be controlled? Another of the research projects will investigate this.

Final project in the seven-point package is a study of modes of failure of concrete platforms. Here the aim is to develop model techniques which will enable the failure modes of typical platforms to be simulated.

This multiple research programme will be handled by the Underwater Engineering Group of the Construction Industry Research and Information Association; the Cement and Concrete Association; and other contractors, yet to be selected.

In parallel, three other concrete research efforts are also being supported by the Department of Energy. Shell is making fullscale measurements on its Brent B platform; Harwell is studing the corrosion of steel reinforcement; and CIRIA's Underwater Engineering Group is compiling a guide to temperature effects in oil-containing structures.

Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

Business Diary: Customagic's threesome • Edward Bates' latest

...changes at Customagic, ...quoted Manchester loose ...a cover maker, mean the ...ement as chairman of ...e Linder who founded the ...and in 1965 took it to ...t.

...ouncing "satisfactory" ...profits of £306,119 for ...1974 £63,236), Linder had ...at as so much depended ...whether the Government ...contain rising costs, that ...ld be "undesirable" for ...forecast 1976's figures.

...lier this month, it was said ...ar's profits would be "not ...than in 1975.

...ler is being replaced as ...an by Sir Cecil Burney, ...an of Hampton Trust, al-...Linder will remain both ...ctor and joint managing ...r with Customagic co-...rs Sidney and Bernard ...

...Cecil will be joined on the ...by Gerry Truman, chair-...f Janorum Investments ...consultant director of ...agic's merchant bankers ...n Guaranty.

...man's arrival, like that of ...third new director, Ian ..., a director of Mooloya ...ents, follows the plac-...November by Portman of ...000 block of shares ...ent to a quarter of the ...

...ough Linder was not ...le for comment last ...Truman said the board ...ing strengthened to per-...stomagic to take advant-...expansion projects in ...areas.

...mpany spokesman said ...ves were "to promote ...ansion of the company's ...s, both at home and overseas.

The latter would be fraught with possibilities for Customagic, the value of whose goods exported last year was a mere £5,150.

Arab arrivals

With five new board appointments in the past two days, Edward Bates is preserving its reputation as the City's merchant bank with the most active recent record of boardroom comings and goings.

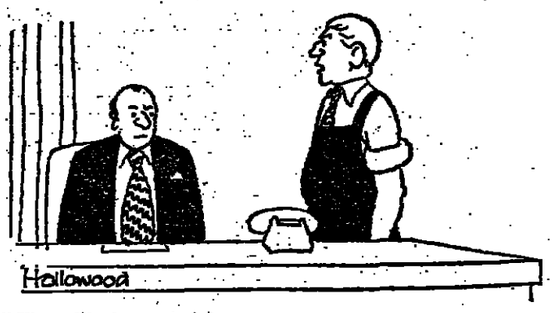
There is, however, nothing particularly mysterious in all this. Two new Arabs have arrived to supplement Prince Abdullah Bin Musaid Bin Abdul Rahman and Daoud Abdel Latif, who joined last year when a Saudi group, First Arabian Corporation, took a 25 per cent stake in Bates plus an option to buy a further 15 per cent.

The two new directors, both of whom join the holding company board are Sheikh Mohamed Al Badrawi, a director and major shareholder of First Arabian who in his time has done a stint with the Royal Navy at Dartmouth, and Ahmez Khalifa, an Egyptian banker who is effectively number two at First Arabian.

All of this, says David Keown-Boyd, Bates's chairman, will further strengthen the bank's growing contacts in the Middle East, while the other board appointments—to the bank rather than the holding company—will build up a board which had shrunk as a result of departures last year to below its former size.

On to the board come Bill Lawes, head of the shipping department, and Bob Gullett, an American in charge of the international department, both of whom are long-standing Bates men. The other is David Jack, a relative new comer of six months standing, who runs the investment department.

But even this is not the end of the appointments. Next week Richard Snow will be joining the bank, making the fourth former Brandts man on the board.



"The girls in assembly bay B are threatening to strike if you continue to use the term overmanning."

Black outlook

The new edition of the *Standard Chartered Review* contains an interesting sidelight on inflation in Rhodesia. There are two consumer price indices listed, one—as you might expect for the whites and another for the blacks.

The December inflation rate for the whites is put at 6.7 per cent, mainly because of seasonal falls in food prices, while that of the "Africans" or blacks is nearly 12 per cent, due to increases in the price of public transport, rent, fuel and light.

A "further twist to the inflationary spiral" is seen for this year as a result of transport costs. Much of this transport was last year bringing in returning white emigrants (a net gain of 1,800 in 1975), and taking out blacks (net loss 6,000), many returning to their native Mozambique or Malawi.

But all this was before the events of the past few weeks in Angola. This year's figures, when they appear in the review a year from now, could tell a very different story.

On the move

While British Steel Corporation chairman Sir Monty Finniston waits to know whether his contract is to be renewed next September two senior managing directors are on the move.

They're Philip Bromiley and Herbert Morley, both products of United Steels, regarded as the BSC's Sandhurst.

Bromiley, in fact, has already gone, although the corporation is forthcoming neither about his whereabouts nor the circumstances of his departure. He was managing director of the strip mills division, where Peter Allen is now acting MD, and was managing director-designate of the new Welsh division of BSC due to be established in April.

Bromiley, who is thought to have left the corporation and to be in the United States, joined the Regular Army in 1939, leaving as a major in 1958.

Morley is to retire at 57 as BSC's managing director in charge of planning and capital development after 42 years in the industry. As managing director of the general steels division he was involved in the building of the Anchor project, Scunthorpe, now one of the few BSC bright spots.

It is not known who is to succeed Morley, but it is expected to be an insider.

The report and accounts of British Leyland show that in the year up to September 30, 1975, at a time when the company was being bailed out by a Labour government, the group contributed £3,000 to the right-wing pressure group the Economic League. Can't wait for next year's accounts!

Alexander Howden Group Limited
International Insurance

	Profit before tax	Earnings per share: Before tax	Earnings per share: After tax and minorities
1975	£10,788,000	22.33p	13.33p
1974	£8,110,000	16.86p	9.02p
1973	£6,189,000	13.15p	7.34p
1972	£4,275,000	9.12p	5.61p
1971	£2,774,000	6.56p	3.75p

National Enterprise Board and Rolls-Royce (1971)

The full text of the memorandum of understanding about the relationship between the National Enterprise Board and Rolls-Royce (1971) is as follows:

General principles

This memorandum of understanding about the relationship between the National Enterprise Board (NEB) and Rolls-Royce (1971) Limited (RR71) is based on certain general principles:

i Except as provided in this memorandum, RR71 is expected to continue to operate as far as possible on a normal commercial basis like a company in the private sector.

ii The NEB has no intention of usurping the responsibilities of the Board of RR71 or to intervene in the day to day management of RR71.

iii The NEB has, however, certain responsibilities in respect of RR71 as:

a the sole shareholder;

b a major potential provider of finance in the future;

c a public corporation with certain duties under the Industry Act 1975 and guidelines issued under the Act.

iv In exercising these responsibilities the NEB's prime concern will be to see that the Board of RR71 runs the company efficiently and successfully, since the performance of RR71 will have a major effect on the NEB's total performance.

The following provisions are designed to enable the NEB to carry out its responsibilities with the minimum disturbance to the normal operation of RR71 as a major industrial company.

Composition of board

2 Recommendations for changes in the composition of the Board of RR71 and for changes in remuneration will be put forward by the RR71 Board for approval by the NEB.

It is accepted that, as sole shareholders, the NEB has ultimate responsibility for determing the composition of the Board of RR71 and approving its remuneration, subject to such arrangements for consultation with the Government as the NEB and the Government may agree from time to time.

Plans

3 RR71's long-range plan and annual plans will be subject to agreement by the NEB.

Monitoring

4. RR71 will be expected to supply to the NEB such information, in a nature and in a form to be agreed by RR71 and the NEB from time to time, as will enable the NEB to monitor the performance and financial prospects of the company.

Capital investment

5. RR71 will seek approval from the NEB for:

i major investment programmes;

ii projects involving capital expenditure of £5m or more.

Acquisitions and disposals

6. RR71 will seek prior approval from the NEB for any proposal to acquire any of the share capital of a company:

i if its acquisition would entitle RR71 to exercise or control the exercise of 30 per cent or more of the votes; or

ii if the value of the consideration for its acquisition, together with the value of any consideration paid for share capital of that company previously acquired, would exceed £10m; or

iii if the cost of the acquisition would be £5m or more.

7. RR71 will comply with the restrictions imposed by Section 9 of the Industry Act 1975 which relate to acquisitions of businesses concerned with the media.

8. RR71 will seek prior approval from the NEB for the sale of any voting shares held by RR71 or its subsidiaries.

Borrowing

9. In order to enable the NEB to comply with Section 8 and Schedule 2(3) of the Industry Act 1975, RR71 will not borrow from sources other than the NEB without the NEB's approval.

Wider economic and social responsibilities of the NEB

10. RR71 has agreed that, in drawing up its long-range and annual plans, it will:

i examine the case for locating any expansions or new undertakings in an area of high unemployment;

ii take adequate steps to provide for the full involvement of employees in decision-making at all levels.

Counter-inflation policy

11. In negotiating terms and conditions of employment, RR71 will naturally ensure that settlements reached are consistent with the financial situation of the enterprise and with the requirements to be observed for the period up to August 1, 1976, as set out in the White Paper "The Attack on Inflation" (Cmnd 6151).

Early warning of major issues

12. RR71 will be expected to warn the NEB, and the Secretary of State for Industry, in advance about any decisions which clearly have major Parliamentary implications.

Contacts with the Government

13. On all major issues affecting RR71's strategy, plans and performance and the NEB's responsibility for securing the efficient management of RR71, RR71 will deal with the NEB. The NEB will, however, be accompanied by representatives of RR71 at major discussions with government of the plans of RR71 and will invite the RR71 representatives to explain the plans to the Government at those discussions.

It will also be open to the Chairman of RR71 at any time to seek a meeting with a Minister, provided that the Chairman of the NEB is consulted beforehand and has the opportunity to attend if he wishes.

14. RR71 will maintain its dealings with government departments on day to day matters, including dealings with the Department of Industry in its role as sponsor department for the aeroengine industry, dealings with the Ministry of Defence (Procurement Executive) on all matters for which it is responsible, dealings with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and day to day contacts with the Department of Employment on pay questions.

15. When RR71 is brought within the Planning Agreements system, arrangements will be worked out by the NEB and RR71 in accordance with the principles set out in this memorandum.

Channels of communication

16. The normal channel of communication on major issues will be between the Chairman of the NEB and the Chairman of RR71, supported as appropriate by contacts between senior staff of the NEB and their opposite numbers in RR71, to whatever extent is necessary to carry out the NEB's responsibilities, without intervention in the day to day management of RR71.

17. The supporting staff of the NEB will agree a programme of discussions through the RR71 Chairman's office. Their purpose is to ensure that the Chairman of the NEB is properly informed.

It is not to take part in the decision-making process of RR71 itself, nor is it in any way to act as an inspecting team. Both the NEB and RR71 will do their best to make the relationship a harmonious one and one of trust.

Business appointments

New Inspector General of Companies named

Mr Ernest Harper has become Inspector General of Companies, Companies Liquidation and Bankruptcy and Registrar of Deeds of Arrangement after the retirement of Mr C. A. Taylor, the Department of Trade announced yesterday.

Mr J. A. Nightingale and Dr G. B. Turner have become directors of Courtaulds.

Mr C. F. Sedcole, a director of Unilever Ltd and Unilever NV, has been appointed chairman of UAC International in succession to Mr A. I. Anderson, who is also retiring as a Unilever director.

Sir Richard Dobson, the retiring chairman, is to become president of British-American Tobacco. Mr P. Macadam, as announced, becomes chairman on April 1.

Mr C. J. Daniels has been made finance director of J. H. Vavasseur Group.

Mr C. J. Daniels and Miss S. Black have been appointed to the board of Mills and Allen International.

Mr Donald Forrester and Mr J. B. Gordon are made directors of Assam Consolidated Tea Estates.

Mr R. P. Gullett, Mr D. Jack and Mr W. E. Lawes have joined the board of Edward Bates & Sons.

Mr Clive Gregory becomes group controller of Pentos.

Mr David Dunn is to be managing director William R. Selwood.

Mr A. A. Smith has become managing director of Eric Britton after the retirement of Mr Eric Britton as chairman and managing director.

Mr Toshio Nagamura has been made resident director for Europe and general manager of the London office of the Bank of Tokyo in succession to Mr Minoru Inouye, who returns to head office.

Mr L. C. Young, group managing director of J. Bibby & Sons, has been appointed chairman of the Advisory Board for the Government's scheme of assistance to the clothing industry.

Mr W. B. Walker, managing director of Braybrooke Chemical Services.

Sir Cecil Burney has been made chairman of Customagic after the resignation from that post of Mr Charles Linder, who remains joint managing director. Mr Gerry Truman and Mr Ian Philips join the board.

Mr Peter Sweeney has become director and manager of Balfour Beatty Far East.

Mr Wiliam Boulton has been made deputy chairman of Eddison Plant, Grayston and J. D. White. He remains managing director of Grayston.

Mr C. F. MacKenzie has been appointed chairman of Ault & Wiborg Paints. He is succeeded as managing director by Mr Gordon Phillips, formerly operations director.

Mr Sidney Bloch has become deputy chairman of C. Rowbotham & Sons (Insurance) and its subsidiary companies.

Mr W. B. Walker becomes managing director of Braybrooke Chemical Services.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Woodhouse & Rixson tops £1m but second half growth slows

Though pre-tax profits bear the £1m mark for the first time, against the previous year's £786,000, steel forgings producer Woodhouse & Rixson showed a marked slowdown in growth in the second half of the year to December 31, reflecting volume declines of around a tenth in key areas.

Mr Scott Baker, managing director, said yesterday that the exceptionally good results in the first half of last year were partly due to a large rise in the steel price. But the downturn in volume seen in the second six months reflected the bottom of the cycle for most of the group's products. Trailer's and trailer components and other leisure-related products had shown a surprising increase, and forgings were also improving.

But the group is not making any forecasts for the current year. It is now negotiating for a Midland forgings producer with sales of around £1.75m. It has not yet utilized, however, the £600,000 proceeds of its recent rights issue.

Brasway aims to .it loss

Though it stumbled into losses in the half year to November 1 Brasway is confident that by the end of the year on April 30 only a "small" loss will be recorded.

This group of iron and steel processors and steel stockholders in tough going incurred a pre-tax loss in the latest half year of £143,000, sliding from a profit of £538,000. Sales went down from £8.35m to £7.96m. But the interim dividend is 1.54p gross against 1.49p and the board says that it intends to pay the maximum final dividend (against 1.48p gross).

In the six months steel stockholding was hit hardest. Demand continued to decline and high stocks stayed high. The non-ferrous division incurred a bad debt of £53,000 when Metal Products (Willenhall) appointed a receiver. Though part may be recovered, the amount has been accepted as a total loss. Brighter signs for the final stage were signs of a quick recovery in January after a poor November and December. The Tube Mill & Steel Stockholding division will also be returning "good" profits by March.

Westwood Dawes gives one-for-two scrip

Structural and mechanical engineer, Westwood Dawes proposes a one-for-two scrip issue. Shareholders will also get a dividend of 6.66p gross, against 6.05p for 1975.

Turnover of this Stourbridge-based group went up from £1.12m to £1.48m, and pre-tax profits rose 6.4 per cent to £132,000. Earnings a share improved from 6.69p to 7.16p.

Tussaud's new peak

Madame Tussaud's, the waxworks, planetarium and Wookey Hole group, has again made record profits. After last year's best-ever £805,000, which was 6 per cent up on the year before, the board reports a 24 per cent increase to £1m for the year to December 31. Turnover advanced by £500,000 to £2.5m. As forecast, the board is paying shareholders the most allowed. The final dividend is 0.89p gross against 0.85p, making the year's total 1.35p compared with 1.27p. Earnings a share rose from 1.76p to 2.30p. Regional Properties has 14½ per cent of the equity.

Ransomes Sims ends 27pc up

Record profits for 1975 come from Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, the Ipswich-based machinery maker; and the board hopes that this year's profits will be as good.

Sales last year rose from £19.24m to £23.5m, and a second-half increase of 16.6 per cent to £1.38m sent the year's pre-tax profit up to £2.43m. These were 27.6 per cent better than in 1974.

Earnings a share rose from 14.9p to 25.2p and the dividend rises from 9.91p gross to 10.7p.

At the half-way stage, pre-tax profits were 46 per cent up at £1.05m, the first time that £1m had been made in the opening six months. But the full year was not expected to be much better than in 1974.

Thames Plywood

Thames Plywood Manufacturers is confident about the year to April 27. Pre-tax profits for the first half year to October 31 rose from £49,000 to £52,000, and the board says that the year's earnings will "adequately cover" a total dividend of 3.53p gross, the same as last year.

It says trading in Thames, the parent, continued to be difficult. However, Technical Panel Industries, a subsidiary, raised output and traded well. Turnover rose from £1.3m to £1.5m. The interim dividend is 1.07p again.

Manbré chairman on auditors' note

Mr F. S. Smith, chairman of Manbre and Garton, the starch product manufacturer and sugar refiner, told shareholders at the annual meeting that he thought the qualification the auditors had made in their report on the company's accounts for 1975 was "unjustified". The auditors had reported that in their view the company's earnings a share were understated.

Accounting merger

A merger of three London based accountancy firms, with the new firm to be called Dearden Fallow and operating offices in several large cities in Britain, Europe, South Africa and Australia, was announced yesterday. The three firms are Dearden & Co., Farrow Middleton, and Marsh, Wood, Drew.

The new firm, which will have a staff of 600, will rank in the top twenty of British accountancy firms. The merger will become effective next April.

The senior partner of the new grouping will be Mr Kirkpatrick Young, of Farrow Middleton, a member of the CBI Prices Working Party and is now a Department of Trade inspector investigating the affairs of Grendon Trust.

Derek Crouch bounces back

The year's pre-tax profits from Derek Crouch (Contractors) suddenly went the right way after plummeting from £422,000 to £209,000 in the six months to last June. In fact Crouch went on to do better than at any time since 1971.

On a turnover up from £17.9m to £21.5m, profits bounded from £933,000 to £1.13m and net profits from £472,000 to £600,000. Earnings a share rose from 4.9p to 6.19p, and the year's dividend goes up from 4.42p to 4.94p gross.

The board hoped to benefit from its continuing programme of investment in plant including the most modern earth-moving machinery in its mining division. Developments at Whittesley, Cambridgeshire, were near completion and tenants for the main shops already contracted.

Lornex depressed

Lornex, the Canadian copper producer, which Rio Tinto-Zinc's offshoot Rio Algom tried to take over earlier this year, has also felt the draught from poor metal prices, reporting severely depressed results for the year to the end of 1975. Net earnings sank from $22.7m to $626,000.

Some $20.7m had been repaid to the Japanese by mid-February, leaving Japanese loans of $78.2m outstanding. Rio Algom, which is 51 per cent owned by RTZ, now has a 66 per cent interest in Lornex.

Textured Jersey back in the black

Knitted fabric makers Textured Jersey is back in the black. In the first half year to October last, turnover rose from £2.66m to £3.1m, and a loss of £136,000 gave way to a pre-tax profit of £31,000. Since the half-year ended, business has been maintained.

Liden slides into red

After a hasty tumble, white-wood furniture and timber importing group Liden Holdings has now gone into the red. The interim dividend is passed (0.26p gross was paid last time) reflecting a loss of £28,000 against a profit of £30,000.

Stock markets

Funding talk prompts selling

After a bright start, sellers gradually got the upper hand yesterday and by the close the *FT* Index was just one point ahead, at 410.2, a drop of 4.6 on the level at noon. Late in the day, unspecific talk of a "massive" rights issue played a part in the decline.

Initially, prices rose on the hope of further progress by Wall Street and still cheaper money. But, as has often been the case recently, the volume of buying was not enough to sustain the tone for the whole of the session.

Dealers are noticing an increasingly-cautious approach by investors to the "blue chips" with much of the interest switching to the second-liners.

Electricals again did well but, this apart, the spotlight fell on gold shares where the prospect of reduced government aid for the mines brought losses of up to £1 among the heavyweight shares.

Gilts were fairly quiet. Interest in all sections of the market continued, with hopes of a cut in Minimum Lending Rate today spurring on buying.

"Shorts" were up to ½ point better in high-coupon stocks, and up to ⅛ point better in low-coupon stocks. "Longs" showed good rises of ½ point.

In the golds, the worst hit were Johannesburg Consolidated, £1 to £13.75, FS Geduld, down by 62p to £18.75, President Brand 62p to £15.25 and St Helena 50p to £19.

Elsewhere in the sector Angola considerations continued to affect De Beers, which gave up another 7p to 234p, and Anglo American Investment Trust which has a stake and fell more than £3 to £20.75 in sympathy.

The continued strength of electrical shares was typified by the ordinary and "A" shares of Thorn which put on 8p to 272p and Rank "A" where the gain was 6p to 165p.

Crane Fruehauf shares at 22p are within a whisker of the 1975-76 peak. They look forward to news of a fine recovery from the losses made in the first half of last year when the haulage industry stopped ordering trailers and containers. The recovery is thought to reflect good business overseas, especially in the Middle East.

Other good spots were EMI 6p to 258p, United Scientific 5p to 162p, GEC 3p to 159p, Racal 3p to 251p and MK Electric 2p to 86p. Plessey were also a couple of points better at 82p.

The engineers were more subdued than in the previous session, though Metal Box still managed to put on 3p to 293p, Vickers 4p to 173p, and GKN 2p to 322p. Tube Investments stayed at the overnight 342p.

The static state of the leaders pitch left ICI 384p, Glaxo 372p and Unilever 444p all unchanged and Beechams gave up a point to 357p.

The recent favourable comment continued to give a lift to furniture shares, notably BI Nathan 6p to 51p, and Harris Lebus which rose 3p to 57p. Bear Brand were suspended at 5p.

Two other pitches where *shares refused to give up their* firm tone were motors and papers. Here Dunlop rose 2p to 85p, Clayton Dewandre 2½p to 82½p, Wilmot Breeden 1p to 44½p, De La Rue 7p to 249p and Bowater 4p to 193p. After the annual meeting, Manbre & Garton shaded a penny easier to 136p while news of an acquisition had Laporte a point better at 93p.

With results due to come today, Midland lost 5p to 305p in banks. Both Barclays 315p and National Westminster 270p stayed at overnight levels while Lloyds closed at 240p ex rights.

A combination of its earlier rights and Africa considerations clipped 8p to 415p from Standard Chartered, while Gillett Brothers continued to reflect disappointment with results and lost 10p to 220p.

In a generally subdued insurance pitch, Alexander Howden added 2p to 132p after results.

The feeling that an above-average performance can be expected from the sector boosted shares like Magnet & Southerns 3p to 170p, ML Meyer 2p to 75p and United Builders Merchants 1p to 75p.

Oil shares were in subdued mood with BP unchanged at 590p and Shell going ahead 2p to 388p.

Stores were particularly quiet with prices generally holding steady. Woolworths fell back 2p to 73p as recent optimism about the prospects of a significant turnround continued to evaporate on the run-up to today's results.

In foods, results from F. J. Wallis were in line with some of the highest expectations. But the improvement had been well read earlier in the week and the shares actually shaded a 1p to 85p as profit-takers emerged. In sympathy, Tesco stood still at 41p while Sainsbury managed to climb a 1p to 122p.

Shippings continued to languish with the institutions still treating early signs of improvement in world trade with the utmost caution. News that cargo rates had come off bottom and enthusiastic forecasts on the German economy were not enough to improve

News that Eur Shipholdings was stil at the Furness Wit failed to impress. The based group announc had acquired a furthe of the Furness ordinar ing its stake to near cent, but the shares 3p to close at 221p. M Manchester Liners sli 5p to 265p.

At one point Fison 415p, just 2p below i "high". The hope is year profits, due on will show a rise of around £16m in spite c second half. But the s stay quiet even thou issue talk has been l missed.

There were a numl pressive features fr panies reporting res new and recent. Th these included Johnso which rose another 1(on further conside Wednesday's retur Matthew Clark which another two points t a similar reason.

Results yesterday: for Horizon Midland, 10½p to 46½p, Ransc 18p to the good at Charrington Gardne where half-time figur an advance of 2½p to

Lumson Industries other to go ahead, 75½p, while Alfred soared 20p to 65p.

A feature was announcement of a Geo Dew which put 6p to the good. Coat stood at an unchan Later it was learnt accepted 142p terms Walker.

Equity turnover on Fe was £70.24m (16.243 According to Excha graph active stocks were Burmah Oil, Lo new, Charter Consolic Rank "A", Plessey, Spencer, ICI, Horizon Shell, GKN, EMI, Matthey, Standard & Bank, Morgan Hawker Siddeley Electric.

Latest dividends

Company (and par values)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total
Ashmole S. Int	0.91	0.81	—	1.25
Brasway (10p) Int	1	1	19/3	—
Charrington (25p) Int	1	0.7	23/4	—
B'ton & Home Fin	1.41	1.27	—	2.11
Derek Crouch (20p) Fin	2.27	2	2/4	3.21
Horizon Midlands (5p) Fin	1.84	1.75	—	2.58
Alex Howden (10p) Fin	1.46	1.16	21/4	2.46
Liden (Holdings) (10p) Fin	Nil	0.17	—	Nil
London Shop (25p) Int	0.87	1.89	30/4	—
Madame Tussaud's (5p) Fin	0.58	0.57	5/4	0.88
Ratcliffs Gt Brit Fin	1.01	0.92	—	1.54
Ransomes, Sims (£1) Fin	4.65	4.41	18/5	6.95
River & Mercan (25p) Fin	3.85	—	—	6.25
River Plate & Gen (25p) Fin	3.35	3.1	1/4	4.45
Silentbloc (10p) Fin	0.98	0.96	23/4	1.6
Thames Plywood (25p) Int	0.7	0.7	26/4	—
W'wood Dawes (25p)	4.33	3.94	14/4	4.33
Wiggins Cons (10p) Int	0.61	0.61	23/4	—
Winchmore Inv (25p) Fin	1.2	0.92	23/4	1.55
W'dh'se & Rixon (12½p) Fin	1.42	0.88	—	2.36

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per where in Business News dividends are shown on a gross establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54.

Briefly

WIGGINS CONSTRUCT
Pre-tax profit for half-year to September 30, £69,000 (£109,000).

RATCLIFFS
Group sales of Ratcliffs (Great Bridge) fell by 24 per cent to £28.49m in 1975, mainly because of lower worldwide copper prices. Group earnings before tax down from £914,100 to £729,100. Total payment, 2.37p gross (2.15p).

ALFRED CLOUGH
Treasury will give permission for total payment of 5.005p gross for period January 6, 1975 to February 1, 1976, which will permit a further dividend of 1.3p and this has been declared, payable on March 22.

STRONG & FISHER
Strong & Fisher's rights issue at 80p per share attracted acceptances for 634,000 ordinary shares (about 97.3 per cent of issue).

ISHIKAWAJIMA-HARIMA
The coupon on the Ishikawajima-Harima Industries $25m five-year Eurobond issue is now expected to be 9 per cent. down from the originally envisaged 9½ per cent.

WINCHMORE INV TRUST
Pre-tax revenue for 1975, £25,000 (£24,000). Total dividend, 2.33p gross (1.93p).

GREAT NORTHERN INV
Chairman reports in his annual statement that he expects dividend for current year will be maintained, despite some decline in earnings.

TATE & LYLE
Due to a news agency error the expansion of Belize Sugar Industries, a Tate & Lyle subsidiary was reported on Wednesday to be taking place at the Tower Hill factory in London. This should have referred to the Tower Hill Sugar factory in Belize.

MAKITA ELECTRIC
The board of Makita Electric Works is to issue 3.3m new ordinary shares. Issue will be in form of Continental Depositary Receipts listed on Amsterdam stock exchange, and is being placed in international market by Yamaichi International (Europe), Robert Fleming & Co, Pierson, Heldring & Pierson NV, and Jardine Fleming & Company.

HARRY VINCENT
Harry Vincent has acquired for cash the wholesale distribution business of H. Simpson Kirk, Hull.

HUME INDSTS MALAYSIA
Hume Industries Malaysia Berhad announces a pre-tax profit of $M2.5m for the six months to December last against $M3.1m for same period in 1974. An interim dividend of 6 per cent less tax is proposed.

DIXONS-WESTON
Dixons Photographic now controls about 92.1 per cent of share capital of Weston Pharmaceuticals. Cash alternative offer is now closed, but share alternative remains open.

STENHOUSE HOLDINGS
Stenhouse's rights issue attracted acceptances for 6.55 million ordinary shares (94.92 per cent).

LAPORTE
Laporte Industries (Holdings) has acquired R. & J. Garroway for £1.05m. Garroway is a manufacturer of sulphuric acid and aluminium sulphate.

THOS W. WARD
Resolution has been passed to increase the authorized capital from £12m to £18m by creating an additional 24 million ordinary shares of 25p each. Company has provisionally allotted 12.96 million new ordinary shares of 25p each to shareholders for subscription at 46p per share on the basis of one new ordinary share for every three ordinary shares held.

C. H. BAILEY
At adjourned annual meeting on March 19 it will be proposed that it be adjourned again as it proved impossible to complete printing of accounts for period to April 4, 1975, in time to post them to members 21 clear days before March 19.

NCHANGA CONSOL COPPER
Pre-tax losses at Nchanga Consolidated Copper mounted in the third quarter by a further Kwacha 15.6m (about £12m) to K40.5m (about £31.1m) for the nine months to the end of December. These compared with a profit of K136.3m. But K43.3m was recouped in taxes in the past nine months. Nchanga, like Roan Consolidated, has been hard hit by Zambia's landlocked position and the low copper price.

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS
Chairman reports in his annual statement that year ahead offers little assurance of any major alterations in adverse trends of 1974 and 1975.

AB ELECTRONIC
AB Electronic Components with branch factories in mid-Glamorgan, Berkshire and Germany, announce that Kenure Developments and its subsidiary, Ancillary Developments, Camberley, Surrey, have been bought.

BANDANGA HOLDINGS
Czarnikow Group purchased 5,000 ordinary shares in Bandanga Holdings on Feb 5 and it is now interested in a total of 115,000 (11 per cent ordinary shares of Bandanga).

PERKIN-ELMER
Perkin-Elmer (subsidiary of Perkin-Elmer Corp of US) reports turnover for half-year to Dec 31 down from £4m to £3.46m and pre-tax profits from £479,000 to £349,000.

FLAG INVESTMENT
Gross revenue for half-year to Sept 30 down from £618,000 to £399,000 and pre-tax profits from £376,000 to £234,000. No interim payment (same).

INTERNATIONAL DISTILLERS
International Distillers and Vintners (subsidiary of Grand Metropolitan) reports operating profit for year to September 30 of £21.23m (£21.48m). Pre-tax profit, 9.60m (£9.27m).

OWEN OWEN
After purchases on Feb 4, 5 and 6 of further shares in Grant Brothers, Owen Owen is interested in 163,750 Grant Bros ordinary shares.

Hat trick by F. J. Wallis and a five year plan

By Terry Byland

A good set of trading results from F. J. Wallis justified the rise of 20 per cent in the shares since last August when the interim report was published. For the year to December 27, the Essex supermarket group has turned in profits of £2.6m before tax on sales of £64m—increases of 46 per cent and 47 per cent respectively.

Shareholders receive a one-for-one scrip issue and a second interim dividend of 15.9p, lifting the total to 32p a share, the maximum permitted increase. Earnings were up from 5.02p to 6.94p a share.

To complete the picture of success, Mr D. Glynn, chairman, reports that turnover rose by a further 25 per cent in the first few weeks of this year and "we would anticipate a continuation of this improvement".

The results, comments the board, have been achieved in the face of strong competition and the absorption of an "almost unprecedented escalation in costs".

One contribution to the trading outcome came from a signifcant increase in sales area—about 60,000 sq ft were added to bring the total to 450,000 sq ft.

The board has plans for further development over the next five years—effective from 1977. But, in keeping with its previously expressed intentions of avoiding expensive purchases, the plans are to develop the new 10,000 to 50,000 sq ft stores within an 80 miles radius of the group's headquarters in Rainham, Essex.

This, the chairman comments, will give "vast potential" while exercising strict control on distribution costs. He adds that the aim is to maintain margins during 1976, and the directors intend to keep a tight rein on overheads as the store improvement programme gets under way.

The group commented at the interim stage that much of the impetus to the profits surge was coming from increasing involvement in the fresh food side—particularly in butchery. The shares have outmerformed the food retailing sector over the past half year—although one disadvantage from the investment viewpoint is that the market in the shares remains relatively narrow.

Fuel oil keeps Charrington, Gardner ahead

By Ashley Druker

Solid fuel distribution down but fuel oil well up kept the pre-tax profits of Charrington, Gardner, Locket moving in the nine months to last December. Indeed, they rose 19 per cent to £1.48m. Turnover went up from £96.2m to £104.3m.

The interim distribution rises from 1.08p gross to 1.54p, but the board emphasizes that this does not necessarily mean a bigger final. This, it adds, must depend on the year's results, and, in particular, on those for the final quarter.

Solid fuel turnover was stationary at £27.3m, and profits fell from £948,000 to £723,000. But fuel oil (turnover up from £31.6m to £33.7m) brought in a bigger contribution of £499,000 compared with £243,000.

Elsewhere, builders' merchanting went slightly ahead, from £345,000 to £370,000, but vehicles' production and distribution was the best performer, jumping from £24,000 to £279,000. Transport and warehousing slipped from £534,000 to £512,000, but the biggest setback was in sheep farming, from £383,000 to £57,000.

South Africa may cut state aid to gold mines

By Desmond Quigley

State assistance paid by the South African Government to loss-making, or near loss-making gold mines, may be cut, according to Mr A. W. S. Schumann, technical director of General Mining and Finance Corporation and immediate past president of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa.

He said the problems facing the mining industry from lower gold prices were compounded for the Government, which last year paid out R17m (about £10.6m) in aid, compared with R400,000 in 1974, while its gold mining income dropped 22.6 per cent.

Speaking in London, Mr Schumann said: "I do not foresee the withdrawal of state aid in its entirety, but I think the Government Mining Engineer will be very selective in granting approval of capital spending for the purpose of state aid claims."

The major factor affecting any decision was the predicted behaviour of the gold price. He said that if a significant rise was anticipated in the near future, there was unlikely to be any change.

Nothing deters Kleeman Indust

Recession did not deter Kleeman Industrial Holdings last year. The group turned in pre-tax profits of £1.96m compared with £1.31m last time on a turnover up £1.3m to £6.97m.

Kleeman, which manufactures and distributes seals and gaskets, has now managed over 10 years of continued profit growth.

Depreciation accounted for £100,000 but the pre-tax profit benefited from the decision to make no exceptional provision against doubtful debts after putting aside £100,000 last time.

The figures are almost exactly in line with half-time predictions. They took earnings a share to 23.7p from 16.4p and to a fully diluted 21.8p compared with 14.5p. The final advances to 3.9p gross a share,

Silentbloc takes the high road

The first six months at Silentbloc Holdings produced profits close to its best-ever performance at £422,000 before tax. So the scene was set for the anti-vibration equipment and industrial rubber products group to carry on the good work in the full year to September 28.

There was in fact an 82 per cent leap to £874,000 in pre-tax profits—comfortably a record. Turnover advanced 37 per cent to £10m, and the total payment for the year rises from 2.39p gross to 2.46p.

The group now depends less on the United Kingdom motor trade, now about 20 per cent of turnover. The BTR holds about 21.6 per cent of the equity.

HOWARD MACHINERY LTD.

1975 RESULTS	1975	1974
1. Sales	54,240,000	53,179,000
2. Profit before tax	2,026,000	4,646,000
3. Exports from U.K.	8,722,000	7,392,000
4. Share capital and reserves	17,943,000	11,573,000
5. Dividends (per share)	2.03p	2.03p

Copies of the Annual Report are available from the Secretary, Howard Machinery Ltd., Sproughton, Ipswich, Suffolk IP28 3AE

HOWARD

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Australian Comm Bk makes good headway

The Directors of the Commercial Bank of Australia have announced that unaudited group operating net profits for the half year to end-December were $A7.1m, an increase of $0.5m, or 28.3 per cent above the comparative figure of $6m, achieved during the December 1974 half year.

After deducting extraordinary items totalling $A357,000 (1974 deficit $A475,000), group profit for the half-year were $7.5m compared with $A5.1m, an increase of $A1.7m or 33.2 per cent.

In banking the half-year profits were achieved in a

Overseas

...d of high liquidity. But ...ffects for the current half ...to June are still uncertain ...ing calls to statutory ...e deposit, the recent ...tary policy initiatives of ...overnment and a narrow... interest margins.

...bank has declared ...m dividends for the year ...ne 30, 1976, of 2 per cent ...e preference stock and 7 ...ent on the ordinary stock.

...ette gives a ...e ground

...t year the sales of the ...te Company of the United ... reached $1,406,906,000, ...crease of 13 per cent. ...ated pre-tax income was ...24,000, 2 per cent below ... Consolidated net income ...pproximately $80,924,000, ...9 per cent. Earnings a ... of $2.69 compared with ... All figures are prelimin... ...nd unaudited and 1974 ...es have been restated.

Canada dividend

...directors of Bell Canada ...declared a dividend of ...nts a common share pay... ...n April 15 to shareholders ...e register on March 15. ...mount is unchanged from ...or the previous quarter.

...company has applied to ...nti-Inflation Board to in... ...its common dividend by ...s to 94 cents a share to ...in financing the essential ...l expenditures this year ...next of some $C1,000m ...year.

...MACY

...York.—In half-year to ...31, sales rose from $710m ...7.3m and net profit from ...to $37.11m. Net profit a ...up from $2.19 to $3.80.—

...ues & Loans

...t Office gets ...3m loan

...17.3m loan has been ...to the Post Office by ...opean Investment Bank. ...'s long-term finance in... ..., for development of the ...munications network in ... The loan, the second ...EIB to the Post Office, ...lp finance a series of ...costing in total almost ...which will permit about ...extra exchange connex... ...be made.

...m loan for the Republic ...ria has been arranged ...dts. The five-year loan ...margin of 2½ per cent ...erbank rates, broadly in ...the margins on two ...loans arranged last year. ...l is believed to have ...ll received in the mar... ...may be increased in ...managers are Bank of ...and Euro-Latin... Bank.

...Bank of Switzerland ...issue a convertible ...l of around $100m ...after its annual meet... ...pril 1. Conditions have ...been fixed, but the ...e is likely to have a ...e years and a coupon ...5 per cent. Net profits ...were SF208.9m, up ...83.3m.

...uf Corporation's ...ned subsidiary, Fruehauf ...ternational, is to raise ...rough a seven-year ...issue led by Smith ...Harris Upham. Under ...market conditions, a ...of 9½ per cent is en...

...nk Base Rates

...'s Bank	9½%
...ondon Secs	9½%
...re & Co	9½%
...Bank	9½%
...d Bank	9½%
...estminster	9½%
...ster ACC's	9½%
...Trust	11½%
...s & Glyn's	9½%

...deposits on sums of ...and under, 5½%, ...£25,000, 6¼%, over ...

Commodities

Strong advance by tin prices

Tin prices gained strongly on the London market yesterday, standard cash putting on £33.50 to £3,287.50 and the three-month position gaining £31 to £3,359.50. Dealers said that the market continued to gain ground on substantial trade covering encouraged by further good physical demand.

Copper prices eased somewhat on Wednesday's levels, cash wire bars dropping £3 and three months losing £4. Values were marked down initially in line with the New York trend, although prices worked higher during ring trading.

In coffee the robusta market closed with values as much as £15 to £16 down on balance. Trade sources said that the continued decline was mainly in response to New York. Cocoa futures were also some £5 down on balance.

COPPER.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £[illegible].50-[illegible].50 a metric ton; three months, £641-41.50. Sales, 3,775 tons (mainly carries). Cash cathodes, £[illegible]-[illegible]; three months, £[illegible]-[illegible]. Sales, 250 tons full carries). Morning.—Cash wire bars, £635-35.50; three months, £643.50-44.00. Settlement, £635.50. Sales, 13,325 tons (mainly carries). Cash cathodes, £616-16.50; three months, £[illegible]-34.50. Settlement, £616.50. Sales, 1,000 tons (mainly carries).

SILVER was about 3p down on all three LME positions.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot 205.80p a troy ounce (United States cents equivalent 416.4); three months, 210.10p (424.6c); six months, 215.30p (435.9c); one year, 228p (461.7c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 205.5-05.7p; three months, 210.4-10.6p; seven months, 217.2-17.5p. Sales, 66 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 205.3-05.7p; three months, 210.5-10.6p; seven months, 217-17.5p. Settlement, 205.7p. Sales, 70 lots (half carries). Tin. Afternoon.—Standard cash, £3,285-90 a metric ton; three months, £3,350-60. Sales, 590 tons. High grade, Cash, £3,310-30; three months, £3,360-90. Sales, nil. Morning.—Standard cash, £3,282-84; three months, £3,325-37. Settlement, £3,284. Sales, 565 tons. High grade, cash, £3,285-3,315; three months, £3,355-70. Settlement, £3,315. Sales, nil tons. Singapore tin ex-works, $M1,023.625 a picul.

LEAD was quiet and steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £178.50-179 a metric ton; three months, £186.25-5.50. Sales, 525 tons (mainly carries). Morning.—Cash, £179-79.25; three months, 185.75-86.25. Settlement, £179.25. Sales, 1,075 tons.

ZINC was slightly easier.—Afternoon.—Cash, £240-40.50 a metric ton; three months, £251.25-51.50. Sales, 575 tons (mainly carries). Morning.—£241.25-41.50; three months, £252.50-53.75. Settlement, £241.50. Sales, 2,125 tons (mainly carries). Producers price, $796 a metric ton. Afternoon metal prices are unofficial.

PLATINUM was 40p down at £97.70 ($197.25) a troy ounce.

RUBBER was about steady.—April, 41.25-41.75p per kilo; May, 41.40-41.75p; April-June, 41.45-41.65p; July-Sept., 43.10-43.30p; Oct-Dec., 44.70-44.75p; Jan-March, 45.75-45.80p; April-June, 46.60-46.80p; July-Sept., 47.50-47.55p; Oct-Dec., 47.50-48.00p. Sales: 153 lots of 15 tonnes.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were quietly steady.—Spot, 40.50-41.75. Cifs: April, 39.40-39.60; May, 40-40.50.

COFFEE Robusta futures were easier.

ROBUSTAS.—March, £857-858 per metric ton; May, £851-852; July, £864-865; Sept, £873-874; Nov, £882-883; Jan, £888-890; March, £895-897. Sales, 2,244 lots, including 60 options.

ARABICAS were dull.—April, $108.50-110.75 per 50 kilos; June, $108.50-09.50; Aug, $108.50-09.50; Oct, $108.50-09.50; Dec, $108.50-09.50; Feb, $108.75-09.50. Sales, two lots.

COCOA futures fell further. The March position dropped £5 and May £5.[illegible]—March, £713.50-13 per metric ton; May, £718.50-16.50; July, £700-01; Sept, £679-79.50; Dec, £663-64; March, £655-56; May, £650-52. Sales, 4,766 lots. ICO prices were: Daily, 62.97c; 15-day average, 64.50c; 22-day average, 65.49c (US cents per lb).

SUGAR futures were easier. The London daily prices were "raws" £164 and "whites" £181, both finishing £3 down.—May, £165.05-63 per long ton; Aug, £165.75-64; Oct, £165.75-63.80; Dec, £164-64.50; March, £163.75-64; May, £163-63.25. Sales, 3,034 lots. ISA prices: daily, 13.35c; 15-day average 15.48c.

SOYABEAN MEAL was very steady.—April, £88.10-88.40 per metric ton; June, £88.60-88.70; Aug, £89.10-89.60; Oct, £90.40-90.50; Dec, £91.50-91.60; Feb, £92.40-92.60; April, £[illegible]-93.60. Sales, 70 lots.

WOOL.—Greasy futures were steady.

March, 170-73p per kilo; May, 176-85p; July, 187-92p; Oct, 201-30p; Dec, 204-21p; March, 214-21p; May, 218-[illegible]. Sales, 4 lots.

JUTE was quiet.—Bangladesh white "C" grade Feb-March, £[illegible] a long ton, "D" grade, Feb-March, £127.50. Calcutta was steady.—Indian, spot, Rs310 a bale of 400lb, Dundee Dalsee, spot, Rs485.

GRAIN (The Baltic).—**WHEAT.**—United States dark northern spring No 2, 14 per cent: March, £101.50; April-May, £[illegible]; May-July, £[illegible] direct Tilbury; April, £101.25; April-May, £100.10; May, £100.05; June, £100.55; July, £100.65 trans-shipment east coast. Argentine milling: March, £91.90 east coast. EEC feed: March, £[illegible]; April £97 east coast; March, £[illegible]; April £98 west coast.

MAIZE.—No 3 yellow American-French: March, £[illegible]; April, £[illegible]; May, £[illegible] trans-shipment east coast. South African white: April, £[illegible] Tilbury. South African yellow: April, £70.75 Glasgow.

BARLEY. EEC feed: March, £[illegible]; April £69 east and west coast. All per long ton cif UK unless stated.

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta). EEC origin.—**BARLEY** was steadier.—March, £[illegible]; May, £[illegible]; Sept, £[illegible]; Nov, £[illegible]; Jan, £[illegible]. **WHEAT** was steadier.—March, £[illegible]; May, £[illegible]; Sept, £[illegible]; Nov, £[illegible]; Jan, £[illegible]. Nov forwards &c are quoted per metric ton; other positions are still long ton.

Home-Grown Cereals Authority's location ex-farm spot prices.—

	Soft milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
Wiltshire	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
S Lincoln	£[illegible].10	£[illegible].00	£[illegible].90

MEAT COMMISSION.—Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 26.—United Kingdom.—Cattle, £[illegible] per live cwt (+0.[illegible]). Sheep, [illegible]p per lb DEDW (+0.4). Pigs, £[illegible] per SCW (—0.08). England and Wales.—Cattle numbers up [illegible] per cent, average price £[illegible] (+0.[illegible]). Sheep numbers down [illegible] per cent, average price [illegible] (+0.5). Pig numbers up 1.1 per cent, average price £[illegible] (—0.08). Scotland.—Cattle numbers up [illegible] per cent, average price £[illegible] (+0.05). Sheep numbers down [illegible] per cent, average price [illegible] (+0.4). Pigs, nil.

Australian wool shipments delay

Sydney, Feb 26.—Industrial action by storemen and packers in Australian wool dumps is severely disrupting the movement of wool out of Australia, shipping sources here said.

They said that 45,000 bales scheduled for shipment to Europe on one container line alone between February 16 and March 6 will be delayed for varying periods of up to two weeks on present indications. The line notified the wool trade it has short-shipped or expects to short-ship in the period 7,660 bales at Brisbane, 15,240 at Sydney and 22,500 at Melbourne.

The sources said that so far the line has experienced only minor disruptions in Adelaide and Fremantle and at this stage does not anticipate any immediate delays. Most of the wool, which is still being shipped in its original order of delivery, is destined for Genoa to supply Italian mills.

Shipping sources in the Australia-Japan trade said about 40,000 bales for Japan are being delayed, with consequent short-shipping.—Reuter.

BROCKS GROUP

In the formal documents about sale of International Time Recording, Brocks chairman Mr B. R. Clack says that sale will fetch £1.8m. This will wipe out short-term borrowings and enable group to concentrate on its marine division. Group profits should not be materially affected.

Foreign Exchange

The lira yesterday staged a further moderate recovery on the foreign exchanges, gaining around a further 1½ percentage points against the dollar.

The dollar, in turn, made up ground elsewhere, in Europe, mainly at the expense of the mark.

Germany reported a lower 2,495m marks trade surplus for January, while French currency reserves fell 9.8 per cent or 2,568m francs, to 26,094m, in the latest reporting week, due to recent support for the franc.

The dollar slipped to 771/773 lire from 779/781 overnight. This reduced the lira's depreciation since official closure of exchange markets to 11.88 per cent compared with around 13 per cent on Wednesday.

Trading in the Italian currency was more cautious yesterday, dealers said. But there was optimism that leading central banks, acting with the Bank of Italy and using their "swap" facilities, may be ready to employ concerted intervention around the lira when exchange markets reopen Monday, they added.

Sterling traded at $2.0300 briefly against the dollar before closing a net 5 points up, at £2.0265.

Its "effective rate" narrowed from 30.3 to 30.2 per cent.

Gold fell $1.25 an ounce, to $132.25.

Spot Position of Sterling

	Market rates (day's range) February 26	Market rates (close) February 25
New York	[illegible]	[illegible]
Montreal	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amsterdam	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	[illegible]	[illegible]
Copenhagen	[illegible]	[illegible]
Frankfurt	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	[illegible]	[illegible]
Milan	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oslo	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	[illegible]	[illegible]

Effective depreciation since December 21, 1971 down 6.1 to 30.3 per cent.

Forward Levels

	1 month	3 months
New York	[illegible] prem	[illegible] prem
Montreal	par-10c disc	7 cent prem-3c disc
Amsterdam	[illegible] prem	[illegible] prem
Brussels	[illegible] prem-15c disc	25-60c prem
Copenhagen	1ore prem-1ore disc	3-1ore prem
Frankfurt	3-2pf prem	[illegible] prem
Lisbon	65-165c disc	[illegible] disc
Madrid	30c prem-par	100c prem-par
Milan	par-3lr disc	3-6lr disc
Oslo	1-5ore prem	[illegible] prem
Paris	1-2c disc	[illegible] prem
Stockholm	3-1ore prem	[illegible] prem
Vienna	30-65gro prem	60-[illegible] prem
Zurich	[illegible] prem	[illegible] prem

Canadian dollar rate against US dollar, $1.0142-15.

Eurodollar deposits (%) calls, [illegible] seven days, [illegible] one month, [illegible] three months, [illegible] six months, [illegible].

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $132.25 (an ounce); pm, $132.50.

Krugerrand: per coin: $135-137 (£66.50-67.50) (domestic); $135.25-137.25 (£66.75-67.75) (International).

Sovereign: old, $45-46 (£22.25-22.75); (new) $44-46 (£21.75-22.75) (International).

Discount market

Underlying financial flows indicated that there ought to have been enough funds in the system for discount houses to balance their books without difficulty yesterday. In the event, however, the Bank of England found it necessary to give help to the market on a small scale. This official aid was effected through Treasury bill purchases.

Rates started at around 8⅞ per cent and had come off to about 8¾ per cent by midday, with the signs still pointing to small surplus of credit on the day. But the pattern became patchy in the afternoon, and houses had to search hard for any fresh money.

Closing balances were mostly taken in the range of 8⅞ to 9, but money in the inter-bank market later went up to 9½ or 10 per cent.

The major influence on the day was the very large repayments that had to be repaid to the Bank of England after Wednesday's official help operations.

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate [illegible]

Clearing Banks Base Rate [illegible]

Finance House Base Rate [illegible]

Overnight Open [illegible] Close [illegible]

Week Fixed [illegible]

Treasury Bills (Buying)

	Buying	Selling
2 months	[illegible]	[illegible]
3 months	[illegible]	[illegible]

Prime Bank Bills (Discount to Traders Discount)

2 months	[illegible]	3 months	[illegible]
3 months	[illegible]	4 months	[illegible]
4 months	[illegible]	6 months	[illegible]
6 months	[illegible]		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	[illegible]	3 months	[illegible]
2 months	[illegible]	6 months	[illegible]
3 months	[illegible]	9 months	[illegible]
4 months	[illegible]	12 months	[illegible]
5 months	[illegible]		
6 months	[illegible]		

Secondary Mkt. FRD Rates

1 month	[illegible]	6 months	[illegible]
3 months	[illegible]	12 months	[illegible]

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	[illegible]	3 months	[illegible]
7 days	[illegible]	6 months	[illegible]
1 month	[illegible]	1 year	[illegible]

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open [illegible] Close [illegible]

1 week	[illegible]	6 months	[illegible]
1 month	[illegible]	9 months	[illegible]
3 months	[illegible]	12 months	[illegible]

First Class Finance Houses (Min. Time Rate)

3 months	[illegible]	6 months	[illegible]

Finance Houses Base Rate [illegible]

Recent Issues

Bearing O.T. [illegible] (Issue price)

Bearing Int 25p Ord [illegible]

LASMO 10p Ord [illegible]

Do 14% Cu Pf [illegible]

SCOT 20p Ord [illegible]

Do 14% Cu Pf [illegible]

Treasury 9½ - A 1989 [illegible]

Treasury 12½ - A 1993 [illegible]

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allen C Balfour (68)

Blackwood Hodge (125)

Braham Miller (28)

BAT Group (30)

Jackson JBB (15)

Lee (87)

Lloyd F H (37)

Lloyds Bank (210)

Meyer M L (56)

Tecalemit (12)

Triplex Found (42)

Turner New all (155)

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a 250 paid.

Wall Street

New York, Feb 26.—Issues showed steep losses over a broad range on the New York Stock exchange close following another failure of the Dow Jones industrial average to break out above 1,000.

The industrial average was off 13.82 points at 978.75. About 1,230 issues showed losses to 380 gains. Volume totalled 34,320,000 shares compared with 34,650,000 on Wednesday.

The Dow Jones industrial average loss was its most severe since December 3, 1975, when it fell 17.11 points.

Brokers said investors were disappointed that the industrial average was turned back several times in the past three sessions as it reached the 966 area. They said concern that the market had peaked in its New Year's rally brought on pronounced profit-taking.

Analysts added that the market might be entering the period of correction from the sharp run-up that some earlier said was overdue.

Silver closes 5.7c down

New York, Feb 26.—**COMEX SILVER** [illegible] trading to close near the [illegible] Last prices were 5.50 to [illegible] cents off, with volume at an [illegible] lots. March, 415.00c; [illegible] 417.00c; May, 421.50c; July, [illegible] Sept, 430.70c; Dec, [illegible]; [illegible] 448.70c; March, [illegible]; July, 460.70c. Handy and [illegible] 416.50 (previous $4191). [illegible] Hermitt of Canada [illegible] 422.5 (previous Can$4.1421).

GOLD.—Futures prices [illegible] lower [illegible] and $1.50 in light trading [illegible] on Chicago **NY COMEX:** [illegible] March, [illegible]; June, $134.10 [illegible] Dec, $139.50; March, [illegible]; June, $140.50.

COPPER.—Futures closed steady [illegible] and 65 points up on [illegible] lots. March, [illegible]; April, [illegible]; May, [illegible]; July, [illegible]; Sept, [illegible]; Dec, [illegible]; Jan, 65.20c.

SUGAR.—World sugar futures in NY contract closed almost steady [illegible] lots. [illegible] for the [illegible] March, [illegible]; May, [illegible]; July, [illegible]; Sept, [illegible]; Jan, [illegible]; March, [illegible].

COFFEE.—Futures in "C" contract turned downward again in the after [illegible] March, [illegible]; May, [illegible]; July, [illegible]; Sept, [illegible]; Dec, 95.70c.

COCOA.—A late shortcovering rally [illegible] March, [illegible]; July, [illegible]; Sept, [illegible]; Dec, 160.0c.

WOOL.—Greasy futures closed [illegible] lots. March, [illegible]; May, [illegible]; July, [illegible]; Dec, [illegible]; March, [illegible]; May, [illegible]; July, [illegible]; Sept

Stock Exchange Prices

Late selling

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 23. Dealings End, Mar 5. § Contango Day, Mar 8. Settlement Day, Mar 16

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BRITISH FUNDS

1975/76 High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Red. Yield
95¾xc	82¾	Treas 6½%	1976	95⅝z	+⅛	6.572	8.963
101⅝	96⅞	Treas 10½%	1976	101⅞	..	10.393	8.984
98⅛	88⅞	Treas 6¾%	1977	98¼	+⅛	6.374	8.284
97¾	86¾	Elec 3½%	1974-77	97¾	+¼	3.069	5.256
103⅞	96½	Treas 12½%	1977	103⅛	+⅛	11.158	9.342
94	84⅛	Treas 3½%	1977	93¾	+¼	2.196	6.949
94¼	84½	Treas 4%	1977-77	94¼	+¼	4.243	7.422
103⅛	90½	Treas 9½%	1978	99⅛	+⅛	9.085	9.321
101½	96	Treas 10½%	1978	101½	+⅛	10.346	9.771
93	79	Exch 5½%	1978-82	93	+½	5.573	8.060
88⅛	71¾	Treas 3%	1978	88⅛	+⅛	3.408	6.820
103⅞xc	94⅞	Treas 11¾%	1979	103⅞xc	+½	11.094	10.069
88⅛	73¾	Elec 4½%	1974-79	88⅛	+⅛	4.812	8.057
100½z	94½	Treas 10½%	1979	100½z	+½z	10.469	10.368
97	71	Elec 3½%	1976-79	86⅞	+⅛	4.028	7.625
96⅞xc	85	Treas Cnv 9%	1980	96⅞xc	+½z	9.312	10.034
96½	86⅞xc	Treas 9½%	1980	96½	+⅛	9.847	10.159
87⅞	71	Fund 5½%	1978-80	87	+⅛	8.038	8.985
86	68¼	Treas 3½%	1977-80	85¾	+½	4.082	7.437
103⅞	95⅛	Treas 11½%	1981	103⅛	+⅛	11.130	10.600
86	66¼	Treas 3½%	1979-81	84½	..	4.149	7.313
92¾	72¾	Treas 7%	1980-82	87¾	..	9.374	10.422
107⅞	89⅛	Treas. 12½%	1983	103	+⅛	11.882	11.283
79½	58	Fund 5½%	1982-84	79½	+⅛	6.988	9.386
89¾	61⅛	Treas 8½%	1984-86	88¾	+⅛	9.596	10.940
74½	51⅛	Fund 5½%	1985-87	74¾	+⅛	9.015	10.876
77⅞	53	Treas 6½%	1985-88	76	+⅛	10.230	11.635
81¼	57⅞	Treas 9%	1978-80	79¾	+⅛	6.089	10.394
89⅞	59¼	Treas 5%	1986-89	87⅞	+⅛	8.982	11.479
72⅞	53¼	Treas 8½%	1987-90	77	..	11.417	12.445
102	94	Treas 13%	1990	100⅞	+⅛	13.170	11.190
69	41⅞	Fund 3½%	1987-91	58⅞	+½	10.256	12.181
99	85¼	Treas 12½%	1992	97	+½	13.329	13.408
97½	83⅞	Treas 12½%	1993	96	+½	13.385	13.481
85	49¼	Fund 4%	1987-93	83⅞	+⅛	11.254	12.277
85	49¼	Treas 9%	1994	79¾	+⅛	13.740	13.273
75½	55¼	Hlmptn 3%	1986-96	73	..	9.014	11.561
39½	24¾	Gas 3%	1990-95	34⅞	+⅛	8.852	11.730
75	57¼	Treas 12¾%	1995	93	+⅛	13.826	15.577
75	54¼	Treas 9%	1992-96	69⅞	+⅛	12.906	13.383
100½	86½	Treas 13¾%	1997	95½	..	13.646	13.889
57⅞	40¼	Treas 9%	1994-98	55⅞	+⅛	13.583	13.625
69¾	53¾	Treas 9%	1997	67¾	+⅛	13.427	13.428
75¾	54¼	Treas 9%	1999	73¾	+⅛	13.204	13.476
71½	52	Fund 4½%	1986-96	69	..	11.846	12.776
65	47	Treas 6%	2002-06	63	+⅛	13.339	13.546
46	33	Treas 3½%	2006-12	41¾	+⅛	13.020	13.236
69¾	49¾	Treas 5%	2012-15	65¾	..	13.223	13.256
29¾	23¾	Consols 4%		29	..	13.945	..
27⅞	20¾	War Ln Rec 3%		27	+⅛	13.293	..
25¾	22⅞	Conv 3½%		25½	+⅛	13.600	..
23¾	17¾	Treas 3%		22¾	+⅛	13.831	..
19¾	14¾	Consols 2½%		19¾	..	13.924	..
19½	14½	Treas. 2½%	Act 75	17¾	+⅛	13.918	..

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Yield
91¼	78¾	Aust 6½%	76-78	91¼	+⅛	6.130	11.082
81½	66½	Aust 5¾%	77-80	81½	..	6.815	11.917
74½	56¼	Aust 5%	81-87	74½	..	7.605	12.061
71½	55¼	Aust 5%	87-90	71½	..	7.338	12.042
88½	69	Aust 6%	74-78	88½	..	6.165	10.504
83¾	67¾	Aust 7%	78-81	80½	..	8.882	11.911
100	84	Belgm 4½%	Ass	93	..	..	..
95	84	Chilean Mtgd		95	..	..	..
62	52	E Africa 4%	74-83	62½	..	9.719	14.204
102	90	German 4½%	1930	102	..	..	..
31	23	Hungary 4½%	1924	29½	..	..	..
76	60½	Ireland 5½%	81-89	73¾	+2	..	..
8¾	7¾	Jamaica 7%	77-79	8	..	9.611	13.504
184	123	Japan Ass 4%	1910	184	..	..	..
67½	46	Japan 6%	53-88	67½	..	..	..
55½	33	Kenya 5¾%	78-82	54½	..	7.764	14.622
79½	64	Malaya 7%	78-81	79½	..	9.597	12.571
92½	68¾	N Z 6%	76-80	92½	..	7.350	11.359
69¾	44½	N Z 5½%	85-92	58½	..	12.634	13.929
72	54¾	N Z 7%	83-86	70¾	..	10.434	13.005
56½	44½	N Rhd 6%	78-81	56½	..	7.513	11.655
56½	44½	Nyasa 6%	78-81	56½	..	7.513	11.228
157	85	Peru 6%	Ass	157	..	..	..
95	39	S A Gov 5½%	74-76	95¾	..	..	..
50	25	S Rhd 2½%	63-70	36	..	..	..
33	21	S Rhd 4½%	87-92	31	..	..	..
33	22	S Rhd 6%	78-81	31	..	..	..
56	33	Spanish 4%		56	..	..	..
71	55	Tanz 5½%	73-82	57	..	8.570	14.061
73	70½	Uruguay 3½%		70½	..	..	..

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Yield
22¾	16	L C C 3%	1929	22¾	..	13.566	..
67¾	50¾	L C C 3%	50-83	67	..	7.110	12.233
77¾	61¾	L C C 5½%	77-81	77¾	..	7.335	13.276
66	45¾	L C C 3%	52-84	65¾	..	5.465	12.376
51½	40¾	L C C 3%	55-85	57½	..	9.588	13.058
9¼	7¾	L C C 4%	56-76	9¼	..	6.573	11.081
83¾	69½	L C C 4%	56-76	83¾	..	7.296	11.965
61	42¾	L C C 5%	60-80	57¾	..	22.061	13.286
83	58	G L C 6¾%	1976	83	..	6.534	9.596
86¾	66	G L C 6%	1977	86¾	..	6.733	10.351
59	43¾	G L C 6¾%	90-92	58¾	..	12.182	13.741
93¾	83	G L C 7¾%	1977	93¾	..	7.588	10.640
79	61¾	G L C 6¾%	80-82	79¾	..	11.466	12.577
77¾	57¾	C of L 6¾%	75-79	80	+1	7.250	11.276
72½	55	C of L 6¾%	80-82	74½	..	8.811	12.707
57	37	Ac Mt 7%	81-84	57¾	+⅛	10.828	12.886
64	45¾	Ac Mt 7%	91-93	59	..	13.677	14.988
49¾	41¾	Ag Mt 6¾%	85-90	55	+⅛	12.113	13.576
57¾	47¾	Belfast 6¾%	77-80	75½	..	8.606	13.741
84	72½	Brighton 6¾%	78-79	84	..	7.506	11.824
84¾	73¾	Camden 6¾%	77-79	86½	+⅛	7.516	11.923
79½	62¾	Croydon 6¾%	78-81	79¾	..	8.529	12.325
84¾	73¾	Edin 6¾%	79-81	84¾	..	7.491	11.917
89	77¾	Glasgow 5¾%	80-82	87½	..	10.337	12.880
90	77¾	Gwlch 6¾%	78-79	90	+⅛	7.502	11.345
93	84¾	Herts 6¾%	78-81	93	..	7.104	10.668
76	64¾	Liverpl 7%	76-77	76	..	7.373	10.551
39¾	19	Mot Water 8		39¾	..	12.726	13.992
76	60½	N I 6%	79-80	76	..	8.549	14.892
67	49	N I 5½%	52-54	54	..	11.256	16.081
65½	52½	N I Elec 6¾%	81-83	65¾	..	10.413	15.334
59½	77¾	Norts 6¾%	78-79	59½	+⅛	7.457	11.266
84¾	70½	Shfld 6¾%	77-79	84¾	+⅛	6.228	11.748
46½	45¾	Shark 6¾%	83-86	65¾	+⅛	10.699	13.563
81	60¾	Surrey 6¾%	78-80	81	+⅛	7.409	12.047

Investment Dollar Premium 54¾% (88¾%).
Premium Conversion Factor 0.6566.

FOREIGN STOCKS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Yield
174¾	29¾	Bayer	149½	+¾	156	3.6	20.1
11	9½	Commerzbank	11⅞	+⅛	10.0	2.6	23.3
28¾	19¾	Dp Fn Parts	13⅞	..	16.5	5.1	12.3
51½	39½	FBEIS	41	..	39	4.2	..
42¾	30	Erlcsn	42½z	..	63.6	1.9	23.8
44	37	Finsbrr	42	..	116	5.3	4.8
29	22	Grngmr	22	-1	2.6	3.3	23.5
350	320	Hoechst	340	-10	26.5	3.3	23.5
53	45	Mannesmann E	50	..	..	..	..
12¾	14½	NKFO NV	12½	..	96.1	4.7	94.1
834	595	Robeco U.S.	772	..	1.3	0.4	13.3
475	350	Rolinco Seho fl 5	416	-5	4.1	1.1	16.3
12	9¾	Shell Canada	9¾	..	4.8	2.8	..
37¾	30¾	Thyssen-Huette	30	-10	24.8	3.4	12.3
31½	29½	Volkswagen	44½z	-½z	..	..	..

DOLLAR STOCKS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Yield
10¾	7¾	Brascan	8¾z	..	49.3	5.2	5.3
10⅛	9¼	CP Canada	10⅛z	..	..	..	..
41½	29¾	Can Pac	41½z	+⅛	41.3	12.10	6.7
42½	36¾	Alcan	41	..	41.7	3.8	20.6
34¾	24	Hyram Corp	26⅞z	..	..	..	..
38	10¾	Flnor	27⅞	..	29.7	1.1	16.7
27	15¾	Hollinger	21¾	..	..	..	..
11⅞	11⅞	Hud Bay Oil	11	..	28.9	0.9	28.3
17½	8¾	Husky Oil	16¾	..	..	..	..
12⅞	4¾	Int Bldgs	12⅞	..	22.5	0.0	..
16¾	13¾	Int Nickel	15¾	..	24.9	2.2	14.4
7¾	6	IU Int	7¾	..	42.0	5.2	6.5
12¾	9¾	Kaiser Alum	12¾	+⅛	28.1	2.3	4.4
29¾	20¾	Massey-Ferg	25¾	..	64	2.3	8.1
19¾	17	Norton Simon	17⅞	-⅛	21.7	1.4	6.3
30	20	Pacific Petrol	27¾	..	..	..	..
12¾	7¾	Pan Canadian	11¾z	+⅛	..	..	..
21¾	14	Steep Rock	14	..	..	..	..
7⅞	6	Trans Can P	7¾z	..	..	..	..
29¾	26½	US Steel	26½z	+⅛	..	..	..
20¾	20	White Pass	20	..	15.9	2.3	..
14¾	8¾	Zapata Corp	12¾	+⅛	5.9	2.6	4.2

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Yield
250	235	Alexs Discount	250	..	18.0	7.2	11.8
450	390	Allen H & Ross	450	..	26.1	5.4	9.0
195	160	Arb-Latham	190	..	12.7b	6.7	11.1
445	370	Anz & NZ	404	..	14.9	3.7	8.9
30	20	Bk Baroclin	30	..	0.9	2.8	10.0
170	130	Bk of Ireland	150	..	16.0	4.6	9.1
75	54	Bk Leumi Israel	75	..	6.0	1.6	12.5
130	98	Bk Lnsmt UK	110	..	11.2	5.3	14.9
377	300	Bk of NSW	340	-10	16.2	2.6	14.4
225	172½	Bk of N Scotia	224½	..	23.2	2.4	10.9
180	145	Bk of Scotland	180	..	12.4	4.2	11.6
172	134	Bnkc Trst Ch	172	..	12.1	4.9	7.5
37½	112	Barclays Bank	37½	..	13.2	4.2	8.4
30	19	Bates E Hldgs	19	..	..	..	..
63	53	Brown Shipley	63	..	11.6	6.6	..
272	110	Cater Ryder	250	..	21.7	7.8	..
7	3	Cedar Hldgs	12	f ..	1.0	2.4	8.6
22¾	15¾	Close Man	22¾	+⅛	10.0	4.8	9.4
45	38¾	Citcorp	42¾	..	42.6	..	19.1
67	47	Clive Discount	72	..	5.2	7.3	11.1
250	189	Com Bk of Aust	238	..	31.7	3.0	9.4
142	109	Com Bk of Syd	140	-⅛	8.1	3.9	15.0
35	28	CC De France	35¾z	..	16.1	3.8	24.4
12	7	First Nat Fin	12	..	1.1	2.2	5.1
37	27	Fraser Ans	32	..	20.5	6.3	9.7
185	175	Gerrard & Nat	180	-5	1.9	3.8	..
39	22	Gibbs A	30	..	2.9	9.7	5.0
220	165	Gillett Bros	220	-10	20.0	9.1	8.0
52	37	Grindlays Hldgs	34	..	..	..	..
195	155	Guinness Peat	194	..	22.5b	6.6	23.5
20	6	Hambros Bk	20	..	1.9	6.0	..
101	90	Do Ord	212	..	11.9	5.5	14.5
141	114	Hill Samuel	131	..	6.0	4.9	12.4
164	84½	Hong K & Shang	164	-4	5.7b	1.6	41.9
320	250	Israel Brit	250	f ..	15.0	6.0	4.5
90	40	Jessel Toynbee	55	+⅛	6.2	7.5	..
210	85	Joseph L.	195	..	10.0	5.1	12.1
73	53	Kemsley Ullmann	53	-1	..	..	..
70	50	King & Shaxson	65	..	4.7	7.2	10.6
122	83	Kleinwort Ben	117	..	20	4.0	20.0
255	114	Lloyds Bank	246	+10	11.4	4.7	7.3
138	99	Mercury Secs	128	..	10.1	7.9	7.8
205	123	Midland	205	..	16.6	8.4	5.5
52½	15½	Minster Assets	50½	..	4.5	8.0	9.0
320	159½	Nat of Aust	290	-10	8.4b	2.0	11.6
47	23	Nat Cont Bk Grp	47	+1	2.3	4.1	10.0
290	60	Nat Westminster	270	..	19.5	4.9	10.7
31½	19¾	Ottoman	27	+⅛	140	6.2	5.4
83¾	55	Rea Bros	55	..	7.5	4.6	12.0
27¾	17¾	Royal of Can	23	..	62.9	5.2	9.8
445	100	Schroders	360	..	13.4	3.7	16.7
250	159½	Secondbs Mar	230	..	19.5	7.0	7.1
109	20	Slater Walker	25	..	..	..	..
75	55¾	Smith St Aubyn	70	..	5.5	7.9	..
310	213	Standard Chart	415	+6	24.2b	5.8	7.3
250	125	Union Discount	320	+2	26.4	7.1	9.0
48	41	Wintrust	38	..	4.6	12.0	10.3

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Yield
77	53	Allied	71	..	4.9	6.9	11.7
115	47	Bass Charrington	101	..	8.1	8.0	12.1
243	172	Bell A.	240	..	8.9b	3.8	14.7
74	54¾	Boddingtons	70	..	2.9b	3.8	14.1
74	30	Brown M.	70	..	4.2	6.0	10.0
107	83	Bunner S. P.	107	..	4.3	3.9	8.9
74	52	Burtonwood	65	..	3.9	6.3	8.8
51	33	C of Lds Did	45	..	3.1	6.4	7.2
133	80	Dewhirsh	137	..	7.4	5.8	9.0
152	63	Distillers	146½	..	8.3	5.7	15.2
46	28	Greenall	64	..	1.3	2.1	11.5
155	80	Greene King	143	-2	6.7	4.7	10.9
150	58	Guinness	137	-4	2.8	2.4	3.1
113	53	Hardys & H'sons	112	..	5.5	4.9	8.1
157	73	Highland	150	..	7.0	4.0	9.1
39	16	Inverarden	39	+⅛	2.7	6.9	8.1
64	36	Irish Distillers	62	..	3.3	5.2	11.2
43	27	Marston	41	..	2.5	6.5	8.8
64	36	Scot & Newcastle	61	..	4.3	7.0	12.3
29½	19	Seagram	22¾	+⅛	26.6	1.6	21.1
127½z	86	SA Breweries	95	..	5.3b	5.0	9.3
255	65	Teacher	250	+5	12.6	5.1	11.0
67	32	Tomatin	55	..	3.6	6.5	7.0
303	116	Vaux	295	..	20.8b	7.0	11.1
74	56½	Whitbread 'A'	70½	..	4.6	6.5	15.6
75½	55	Do B	71	..	4.6	6.5	15.7
125	87	Whitbread Inv	122	+2	8.8	7.2	21.4
141	87	Wolverhampton	140	..	7.2	5.1	11.3

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

1975/76 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
171	46	AAH	166	..	14.0b	8.4	7.0
66	21	AB Electronic	66	..	5.3	8.6	12.9
44	34	AC Cars	34	• ..	1.4	4.0	9.8
116	49	AD Intl	63	..	3.6	4.3	8.5
46	15	AGB Research	45	+1	3.2	7.1	..
283	93	APV Hldgs	282	..	13.7	5.2	10.1
70	21	AVP Ind	70	• +½	3.5z	4.7	5.9
61	37	Aaronson Bros	60	• ..	2.5	4.1	12.5
17	8½	Abbatoirs Int	15	..	2.2b	14.3	8.2
138	49	Acrow	130	• ..	6.1	4.7	14.1
129	23	Do A	129	• ..	6.1	4.7	14.0
27	15¾	Adams Food	27	+1	1.8	6.0	4.6
15	8	Adda Int	10½	..	..	..	..
154	58	Adwest Group	154	+1	9.7	6.3	7.3
29	8	Aeron't & Gen	17½	..	1.5	8.8	..
137	68	Airfix Ind	136	..	4.4	3.2	12.8
35	27½	Do NV	35	+1	3.6	4.2	8.9
53	36	Albright & W	53	+1	3.8	6.2	10.1
75	55½	Alcan 10½%	57¾z	..	1250	14.1	..
65	58	Do 9% Cnv	57¾	..	900	12.2	..
207	89	Alginate Ind	200	..	19.3	9.7	12.9
75	36¾	Allen E. Balfour	74	r ..	6.1b	8.2	7.8
40	25	Allen W. G.	37	..	3.8	9.7	6.5
49½	14½	Alliance Alders	47½	k ..	3.8	8.1	6.8
117	23¾	Allied Colloids	110	+2	7.9	7.1	12.7
30½	8½	Allied Ismlators	28½	• ..	2.9	9.7	6.3
21¾	4½	Allied Plant	21¾	+¾	1.0b	4.7	10.7
87	33	Allied Polymer	77	..	6.0b	8.0	8.8
140	13½	Allied Retailers	126	-4	7.4z	5.8	7.0
24½	8½	Alpine Hldgs	24	..	1.3	5.2	14.4
220	133	Amal Metal	216	..	12.6	8.6	2.4
55	15	Amal Power	55	+⅛	4.7	8.5	6.6
55	15	Amal Tanks	55	..	4.7	8.5	6.6
27	8	American Inc	15	..	2.2b	14.3	8.2
67½	46	Acrow	130	• ..	6.1	4.7	14.1
129	23	Do A	129	• ..	6.1	4.7	14.0
27	15¾	Adams Food	27	+1	1.8	6.0	4.6
15	8	Adda Int	10½	..	..	..	..
154	58	Adwest Group	154	+1	9.7	6.3	7.3
29	8	Aeron't & Gen	17½	..	1.5	8.8	..
137	68	Airfix Ind	136	..	4.4	3.2	12.8
35	27½	Do NV	35	+1	3.6	4.2	8.9
53	36	Albright & W	53	+1	3.8	6.2	10.1
75	55½	Alcan 10½%	57¾z	..	1250	14.1	..
65	58	Do 9% Cnv	57¾	..	900	12.2	..
207	89	Alginate Ind	200	..	19.3	9.7	12.9
75	36¾	Allen E. Balfour	74	r ..	6.1b	8.2	7.8
40	25	Allen W. G.	37	..	3.8	9.7	6.5
49½	14½	Alliance Alders	47½	k ..	3.8	8.1	6.8
117	23¾	Allied Colloids	110	+2	7.9	7.1	12.7
30½	8½	Allied Ismlators	28½	• ..	2.9	9.7	6.3
21¾	4½	Allied Plant	21¾	+¾	1.0b	4.7	10.7
87	33	Allied Polymer	77	..	6.0b	8.0	8.8
140	13½	Allied Retailers	126	-4	7.4z	5.8	7.0
24½	8½	Alpine Hldgs	24	..	1.3	5.2	14.4
220	133	Amal Metal	216	..	12.6	8.6	2.4
55	15	Amal Power	55	+⅛	4.7	8.5	6.6
55	15	Amal Tanks	55	..	4.7	8.5	6.6
27	8	American Inc	15	..	2.2b	14.3	8.2
67½	46	Acrow	130	• ..	6.1	4.7	14.1
129	23	Do A	129	• ..	6.1	4.7	14.0
27	15¾	Adams Food	27	+1	1.8	6.0	4.6
15	8	Adda Int	10½	..	..	..	..
154	58	Adwest Group	154	+1	9.7	6.3	7.3
29	8	Aeron't & Gen	17½	..	1.5	8.8	..
137	68	Airfix Ind	136	..	4.4	3.2	12.8
35	27½	Do NV	35	+1	3.6	4.2	8.9
53	36	Albright & W	53	+1	3.8	6.2	10.1
75	55½	Alcan 10½%	57¾z	..	1250	14.1	..
65	58	Do 9% Cnv	57¾	..	900	12.2	..
207	89	Alginate Ind	200	..	19.3	9.7	12.9
75	36¾	Allen E. Balfour	74	r ..	6.1b	8.2	7.8
40	25	Allen W. G.	37	..	3.8	9.7	6.5
49½	14½	Alliance Alders	47½	k ..	3.8	8.1	6.8
117	23¾	Allied Colloids	110	+2	7.9	7.1	12.7
30½	8½	Allied Ismlators	28½	• ..	2.9	9.7	6.3
21¾	4½	Allied Plant	21¾	+¾	1.0b	4.7	10.7
87	33	Allied Polymer	77	..	6.0b	8.0	8.8
140	13½	Allied Retailers	126	-4	7.4z	5.8	7.0
24½	8½	Alpine Hldgs	24	..	1.3	5.2	14.4
220	133	Amal Metal	216	..	12.6	8.6	2.4
55	15	Amal Power	55	+⅛	4.7	8.5	6.6
55	15	Amal Tanks	55	..	4.7	8.5	6.6
27	8	American Inc	15	..	2.2b	14.3	8.2

1975/76 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
242	71	Contain E.	232	+3	6.5	2.8	11.5
36	11	Countryside	17	..	..	..	..
82	23	Courts (Furn)	92	..	4.3	4.5	8.6
92	30	Do A NV	92	..	4.3	4.5	8.6
32	11	Court Fitz Ltd	32	f ..	1.9	6.0	4.0
169	82	Courtaulds	159	-1	3.8	5.5	8.3
68	26	Courtney Pope	68	..	5.4	8.0	9.8
38	16½	Cwan de Groot	37	+1	2.4b	6.4	3.3
37	12	Cowie T.	37	-1	2.1	6.7	8.3
21	13	Cox Ind	13	f ..	2.5	21.2	3.3
22½	9	Crane Fruehauf	22	-½	1.3	5.6	..
37	25	Crellon Hldgs	37	..	4.3z	11.6	6.8
43½	12	Crest Nicholson	35	• ..	3.5z	10.0	11.3
70	23	Croda Int	63	-1	2.5b	3.9	8.3
39	14	Crosfte Grp	39	+1	3.7	9.5	8.3
30	20	Cropper J.	28	..	..	..	..
123	60	Crosby Rds	120	..	13.1	10.9	..
24	20	Crossland R.	20	..	1.6	8.1	3.8
70	35½	Crossley Bldg	65	-2	5.5b	8.5	7.5
46

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The morality of the kickback

Entrepreneurial salesmen the world over have had cause for some dry amusement as a result of some of the latest revelations about United States business practices overseas.

As American officials shamefacedly turn up each new scandal, world-weary reps doggedly refuse to express anything more than mild surprise at the apparent extent of such practices or even at the enormous size of some of the deals allegedly involved.

Because international salesmen at most levels of business claim that companies which have never had to resort to the "sweetener", the dash, baksheesh, or one of a host of colloquial equivalents, must be relatively few.

Admittedly undeveloped countries account for practically all deals of this kind and often the payments involved are relatively small, invariably only just transgressing that fine line of distinction between "entertainment" and bribery.

But often they have represented the difference between success or failure for a particular company contract.

And despite a distinct reduction in both these factors the problem has shown no signs of abating in recent years as evidenced by a study into "unusual payments" just completed by the US Conference Board.

The board, which represents executives throughout the United States, found many international companies willing to state that they had been under presure to make a variety of payments to foreign government officials, customers and others in order to do business overseas.

Mr James Basche, the board's senior research associate, who questioned more than 70 top-flight United States executives, found that the most commonly requested payments were for "kickbacks" and "payoffs" to customers' representatives and bribes to government officials to overcome red tape.

Companies which appeared best able to refuse such demands were those in high technology products or who had already attained particularly strong market positions.

In fact only around 25 per cent of the executives participating in the survey were prepared to say they had not encountered requests for payments from either government officials or others and about half of these were consumer products firms which did not have government agencies as primary customers.

Latin America and the Middle East were pinpointed as the areas where corruption was most encountered with the Far East and East and Africa not far behind.

However a majority of the executives claimed that their company policy was to reject demands whatever the cost.

A pharmaceutical executive stated: "We have been approached concerning bribery payments for large government purchases and the registration of our drugs in many countries, throughout the world, particularly in some Latin countries and in the Middle East.

"We have simply not made such payments, and in many cases have lost business."

Unfortunately however not all companies have such resolve and several executives reported that their organisations had felt compelled sometimes to make unusual payments rather than lose anticipated business.

Of the executives who did discuss foreign payments around 75 per cent were convinced that they were not a major problem for their own industries. However most were prepared to state that they were a major problem for other industries, with those in capital goods and natural resources industries most referred to.

Of those firmly against kickbacks many saw them as a threat to the whole private enterprise system while others pointed to the more obvious dangers of corporate embarrassment if and when such practices came to light.

From the other side of the fence a manufacturing executive summed up thus: "I know what the do-gooders in this country would like us to do, and I know what you have to do to do businesss overseas, so the real question is whether or not you put yourself and your company in jeopardy from a moral viewpoint. I think that each of us must evaluate each transaction on its own."

While an even more cynical household appliance executive made this nonetheless significant point: "If you look at the trips, promotions, vacation incentives, etc, used in the US to influence business, very often the total percentage of sales dollars spent on influencing the order domestically is greater than that overseas."

Richard Allen

Unusual Foreign Payments: A Survey of the Policies and Practices of US companies. The Conference Board.

International Humanitarian Work

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Letters of application will be handled in confidence by the consultant:

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The Faculties Partnership,
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From:—
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Transvaal Department of Hospital Services

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Applications are invited from suitably qualified personnel registrable as a Surgeon with the South African Medical and Dental Council for the above mentioned position.
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Appointment of

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Application forms, details of the allowances and other appropriate particulars are available from the County Secretary, Municipal Buildings, Middlesbrough, Cleveland. Tel. 0642 48155 (Ext. 2015), by whom completed applications should be received by not later than the 15th day of March, 1976.
C. J. A. HARGREAVES, County Secretary.

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intments Vacant on page 18

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Keble College, Oxford

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Jumping off in the Greek islands

There was the solid "thwack" of willow striking leather, and the cricket ball spend across the close-cropped green grass towards the watching crowds. Around the ground, people sipped ginger beer and talked of the next evening's concert in the wrought-iron Victorian-style bandstand nearby.

It was a typical English Saturday afternoon scene straight out of the last century. But overhead the sun was hot—too hot for a British summer. And the holiday crowds around the ground who talked quietly among themselves often spoke in Greek.

For this was not an English seaside town of yesteryear, but the Greek island of Corfu one weekend last August. Corfu, just off the north-west corner of the mainland of Greece, was once a British island—and the British have left behind a legacy of ginger beer and cricket. Today it keeps its British links through a thriving tourist industry built up largely on inclusive holidays and self-catering villas, and two out of every three visitors to the island come from Britain.

Many people use the island as a sort of "introduction" to Greece, but in fact it differs quite considerably from the rest of the country. Unlike most Greek islands in midsummer Corfu is predominantly green, an island of tall cypresses and chunky olive trees (there are said to be more than three million of the latter) which help to soften the landscape; and the people and the hotels are both far more sophisticated than in other parts.

Beaches are good, although some of them are hard to get to and this can be a problem on an island where car hire is prohibitively expensive. Many people choose to hire mopeds (about £1.75 a day).

The island has some of the best run hotels in Greece, and the Grand Hotel Glyfada, the Kontakali Palace, and the "B" grade Aeolos Beach—all used by inclusive tour operators—can be recommended. The choosy Club Mediterranee do holidays on the island, and there is also a big range of self-catering villas and flats, particularly at Benitses, Ipsos, and Cassiopi.

Sophistication has not spoilt the Greek habit of hospitality—and when he learned that I was staying alone in a flat at Ipsos last year the proprietor of a local taverna insisted upon providing my breakfast every morning on a table set outside under a vine-clad trellis.

But the hospitality does not run to transporting visitors to the beach, and bus services range from the erratic to the non-existent. So, if you want to get around, it is important to arrange a holiday which includes a hire car in the price.

And if Corfu, with its highly developed tourist industry, is too crowded for you, there are well over 1,000 other Greek islands to choose from for a holiday.

The best known are Crete and Rhodes, both of which are served by a number of British tour operators. Like Corfu, Rhodes—the Crusader island—is used to tourists and has plenty of good hotels, restaurants, and other facilities. The town is worth exploring (do not miss the old harbour of Mandraki, which, it is said, was once straddled by the 90ft statue called the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World), and there are good excursions to Lindos and to the Valley of the Butterflies, near Prophitis Elias.

But I prefer rugged Crete which, except for the ugly and exposed stretch of north coast around Heraklion, has not yet let the tourists change its truly Greek atmosphere.

Perhaps because, in recent years, many visitors have chosen to fly to Athens and then just drift from island to island by ferry (a trend likely to be increased by Thomson's cheap "Wanderer" holidays, providing just a return air ticket and accommodation vouchers), many tour operators are including smaller Greek islands in their programmes this year. Examples include Santorini (Travel Workshop, from £74), Tinos (Allsun, from £125), Paros (Gellatly Travel, from £182), Ios (Sunmed Holidays, from £99), and Skiathos (Olympos, from £124). Or you can cruise to the islands with Olympic Holidays and Chandris (from £199).

But it is worth remembering that on some of the smaller islands both accommodation and meals can be fairly basic, so choose your destination carefully. The Olympos brochure contains a useful pull-out guide to some of the smaller islands.

Personal choices would be a fortnight in a luxury-grade hotel on Crete (Sovereign, from £185), a week in Santorini, or as long as possible in a self-catering villa in Corfu (OSL or the newly formed Charisma Travel). But, once in Greece, I know that I would be tempted to take a ferry and wander from place to place through the Cyclades or Dodecanese groups—seeking my own, private, island in the sun.

The smaller islands may not play cricket or drink ginger beer, but they are the "real" Greece.

Robin Mead

Greek Tourist Office: 195 Regent Street, London, W1. Robin Mead is the author of a new guide book, Greece, (Batsford at £4.50).

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Queries department immediately by telephoning 01-837 3333 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

"... Then shall call me, My father; and shall not turn away from me (saith the LORD)."—Jeremiah 3: 19, 20b.

BIRTHS

ARMITAGE.—On February 25th at St. Teresa's Hospital, Wimbledon, to Karen, wife of Mark Armitage—a son.

BALLIAIN.—On February 26th, at the Louise Margaret Hospital, Aldershot, to Sarah (nee Mackintosh) and Andrew Balmain—twin boys, brothers for Hentothe.

BROWNE.—On February 26th, at Earls to Jennifer (nee Wilmore) and Desmond—a daughter (Harriet Francesca), a sister for Natasha.

BEAU.—On February 25th, 1976, at the B.M.H., Hanover, to Sue (nee Crook) and Captain John Dean, R.A.—a son.

DUDER.—On 25th February at Mount Alvernia, Guildford, to Zara (nee Humphreys) and Vyn Duder—a son.

FRANKLIN.—On Wednesday, 25th February, at Southampton General Hospital, to Diana and Robert—a son (Toby, Harcourt).

GALLEY.—On February 25th at Putnam Maternity Hospital to Helen (nee Ralph) and Alan—a daughter (Fay), sister for Scott. Rest well. Sincere thanks to all the hospital staff.

GAYNER.—On 24th February, 1976, at St. Thomas's Hospital, to Gina (nee Borbwicky) and Robert—a son (James Richard Hamilton).

GRECO.—On February 25th, 1976, at the Royal Free Hospital, N.W.3, to Jennifer (nee Perkins) and Giovanni—a son, a brother for Alessandra.

HARGREAVES.—On February 25th to Georgina (nee Farley) and Nicholas—a son (Hugh Geoffrey), a brother for Louisa.

INVERARITY.—On February 19th, 1976, at Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion, Edinburgh, to Mary Ann and Robert—a son (Hilary), brother for Lesley Ann.

LAWSON.—On February 7th, at Oslo, to Eli and Richard—twin sons.

LEWIS.—On February 26th, 1976, at Mount Alvernia, Guildford, to Celia (nee Seccombe) and Anthony—a daughter.

PLATTEN.—On February 26th, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Rossile and Stephen—a son (Aidan).

ROBERTS.—On February 26th, to Anne and Kingsley—a son (Timothy), a brother for Alison.

ROBINSEND.—On February 25th, 1976, at Linda Wing, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to Carolyn (nee Salomon) and Anthony Townsend—a daughter (Alexandra Helena Victoria), a sister for Christopher.

VON BERTELE.—On February 26th, 1976, to Julia (nee Plunner) and Ulrich—a daughter (Rose Maria), sister for Marceline, Isabel and Maurice.

DEATHS

ALLEN, JOCELYN.—On February 24th, widow of Sir Roger Allen. Much loved mother of Georgina and Charles. Dear sister of Rosalind and Vivien. Funeral private. Please, no letters.

BURNETT.—On 20th February, 1976, Albert V. Burnett, late of 532 Russell Court, London, W.C.1, aged 78 years, formerly contracts manager for Henley Cables Ltd.

DEATHS

CHURCHILL.—On 25th February, 1976, at his home, Cherry Grove House, Claudian Fitzpaine, Taunton, Somerset, Harold Edwin Churchill. The funeral service takes place on Monday, 1st March, 11.30 a.m., at the Parish Church of St. Mary's, Bridgwater, followed by private interment. Family flowers only, but donations in her name if desired may be sent to the St. John Ambulance Division, Bridgwater.

CLOUGH.—On February 26th, 1976, at her home, Sarratt House, The Green, Sarratt, May Clough, beloved mother of Dinnis and Barbara. Funeral service at Breakspeur Crematorium, Ruislip, Thursday, March 4th, at 12.15 p.m.

CROSFIELD.—On 24th February, 1976, at Strathcoden Hospital, Cupar, Fife, Marjorie Louise, aged 81, of 5A Hope Street, St. Andrews, wife of the late James Charley Crosfield. Funeral service on Friday, 27th February, at 3.30 p.m. in St. Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, thereafter private.

DUFF.—On 25th February, 1976, in hospital, George Benjamin, of Ashdown House, Thames Ditton. Funeral service at St. Peters, at West Molesey, at 10 a.m., followed by cremation at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Wednesday, 3rd March, 1976. Flowers to F. W. Paine, 168 High St., Esher.

EDELL.—On 25th February, 1976, peacefully in Enfield, Edith Marion, aged 65 years, beloved Aunt of Jack, Gill and Stephen and sister-in-law of Hilda. Funeral service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Windmill Hill, Enfield, on Wednesday, 3rd March, at 2.30 p.m., followed by private cremation. By her request family flowers only, but donations if desired to Help the Aged, 8-10 Denman Street, W.1.

EMMS.—On 24th February, 1976, Rose Marguerite, aged 77 years, of Lilac Cottage, Breage, Helston, Cornwall. Cremation at Penmount Crematorium, Monday, 1st March, at 10 a.m. No flowers, please. Donations in lieu (if desired) to Selford University Rehabilitation Engineering Fund.

FRANK.—On February 25th, peacefully, at his home, Dr Ludwig Frank, aged 91. Cremation at Golders Green, on Monday, 1st March, at 12.20. No flowers please.

FROST.—On February 26th, 1976, at his home, 41 Holborn Road, Wisbech, aged 53 years, Harry, beloved husband of the late Hilda Frost and father of Joan Neale. Private cremation at his wish. No flowers.

HEYWORTH.—On February 26th, peacefully, at Clementsfield nursing home, Oxted, Lilian Mary Heyworth, aged 83 years, formerly of Rodney House, Limpsfield, dear sister of the late Lord Heyworth and sister-in-law of Lois, Gerda and Una. Service at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth, on Monday, 1st March, at 3.15 p.m. Family flowers only. Inquiries to Ebbutt Funeral Service, Oxted 3767.

LAVIS.—On February 25th, passed away at home, Tamar Edel, Felindre, Llandilun, Pembrokeshire, previously of 146 Saffron Road, Glen Parva, Leicestershire, widow of Major Lionel Lavis, 3rd Dragoon Guards, mother of John and Brendi, grandmother of Hilary, Jane and Sarah. Funeral at St. Rhians Church, Llandilun, on Saturday, February 28th, at 2 p.m. No flowers or mourning, please.

MARR.—On 25th February, 1976, peacefully at Belle Vue Nursing Home, Inverness, Marion Hannah Payne (Molly). Beloved mother of Jock and grandmother of Nina and Ian.

MARTIN.—On 25th February, suddenly, at 16 Dover Park Drive, S.W.15, William Alexander, aged 65, beloved eldest son of the late Sir Alec Martin, K.B.E., and of Lady Martin, dearly loved father of Penelope, Gregory and Letty, and grandfather of Olivia, Thomas, Kezia, Lydia and Niamh. Funeral private.

MERTON.—On 25th February, from a sudden heart attack, Anthea, beloved wife of Bill Merton. Funeral private and no flowers.

MURRAY.—On 26th February, L. S. S., 2 Sun Lane, Harpenden. Funeral Garston Crematorium, 5th March, 2 p.m. Family only. No flowers, no letters, please.

PRICE.—On 26th February, at 47 Holywell Drive, Loughborough, Charles D., beloved husband of Elin and dear father of Jennifer and Jane. Funeral service at Loughborough Crematorium on Monday, at 1.30 p.m. Family flowers only. Donations for the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation to Miss Webb, 139 Loughborough Road, Leicester.

REYNE, ISABELLA MARION (nee Hardie). In Fairfield Ct., Feb. 17, 1976, wife of the late Lt.-Col. Gerard van Rossum Reyne, D.O.S., M.V.O., Indian Army; mother of W. Ashton Lee, of Denver, Colo.; Isobel Lee, of N.Y.City; sister of Mrs. R. W. Glenn, of Greensboro, N.C. Services were held Friday 4 p.m. Feb. 20, 1976, St. Paul's Church, Fldr., Ct. in lieu of flowers, contributions to All Saints' Ch., 230 E. 60th St., N.Y.N.Y.

REYNOLDS.—On Wednesday, February 25th, peacefully, at home, Edgeway, Upper Chobham Rd., Camberley, in her 91st year, Grace Margery Isabella Reynolds, M.B.E., eldest daughter of the late Thomas Reynolds, Esq., and Mrs Reynolds, of Edgemoor, Frimley. Funeral private. Service of Thanksgiving at St. Peter's Church, Frimley, Wednesday, March 17th, at 3.30 p.m. Family flowers only. If desired donations may be sent to Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps.

RISSY.—On February 25th, 1976, Arthur Charles, aged 77, of River, nr. Petworth, dearly beloved husband of Marta and friend of 43 years' standing of Lt.-Col. Miles Reid and his many friends in Hornhill. Cremation, Chichester, Monday, March 1st, 1 p.m.

RUSSELL.—On February 25th, peacefully, John Louis Russell, V.M.H., of Laversbot Cottage, Windlesham, Surrey, aged 78 years, dearly loved husband of Anne and devoted father to Patricia, Louis, Margaret and Joan. Funeral service at Windlesham Parish Church on Tuesday, March 2nd, at 3.15 p.m. followed by private cremation. Flowers and enquiries to Lines and Bannister, 69 High Street, Ascot. Tel.: 20266.

THOMAS.—On 25th February, 1976, at an Ipswich nursing home, in his 87th year, Kenneth, dear husband of Eileen, formerly of Purley, Surrey, and Aldeburgh, Suffolk. No mourning and no flowers by his special request but donations to The Royal Masonic Hospital, appreciated. Enquiries to Singleton and Hastings Funeral Service, Barnes Street, Ipswich. Tel. Ipswich 55644.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HALIFAX.—A Service of Thanksgiving in memory of the Dowager Countess of Halifax will be held in St. Peter's, Eaton Square, on Friday, 27th February, at 11 a.m.

POLE.—A Memorial Service for Stanley E. Pole, British Rail Sealink's Great Britain Sales Manager, who died on 2 February, will be held at St. Botolph's without Bishopsgate Church, Bishopsgate, E.C.2, on Monday, 15 March, at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM

MARX.—In eternal memory of P/O Paul M. D. Marx, R.A.F.V.R. missing February 27, 1943. "All that I have I give."—Virginia and Clay.

SMITH, SHIRLEY ALICE.—27th February, 1968. To the constant loving thoughts and dear memories.

TREFUSIS, PAUL, M.C.—In ever-loving memory.—David and Didie.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LANGHAM WOMEN'S LIFE SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP at Wembley Squash centre, from 27 Feb. to 4 March, 1976. BRITISH OPEN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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is the largest single supporter in the U.K. of research into all forms of cancer.

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NEW CENTRE. Due to the increasing demand for guide dogs, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is building a new training centre so that more blind people can enjoy mobility and freedom. You can help this project and them, by sending a donation to: G.D.B.A., 113, Uxbridge Road, Ealing, W5 5TQ. Or, put a line in your will.

ARTHRITIS SUFFERERS — should you eat or exercise? This is one of the subjects discussed in the Spring Edition of ARC, magazine of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council. Send 50p for a year's subscription (three issues) to A.&R.C., 6, Charing Cross Rd., London, WC2H 0HN.

GERMAN INDUSTRIALIST'S SON, aged 19, wishes to stay with English family in Jan. preferably South-east. Great opportunity for return visit to esteemed family, in splendid environment. Ring 01-660 9344 after 27th February.

IN BEREAVEMENT send your tribute in a form that never fades, with a donation to help old people in need. Help the Aged, Room 1M, 8 Denman Street, London W1A 2AP.

FREE ROOM & BOARD, W.4. See Flat Sharing column.

REDECORATING OR ALTERATIONS? See Business to Business. BEST VALUE are here. Major Travel. See Hols. & Villas.

ARE YOU VERSATILE enough to join us? See Secretarial Appts.

PROFESSIONAL FAMILIES. Accommodation in London wanted. See Rentals.

ELECTRICAL Commissioning Engineers—for overseas assignments.—See £6,000+ Appts.

RAVELLO, southern Italy. The rarest opportunity to acquire one of the finest properties. See Overseas Property.

EXPERIENCED part-time Tutors, Chemistry and Geography.—See Public and Educational Appts.

LADY'S ROLEX OYSTER 18 ct Gold Watch.—See Sales.

SNAPE MALTINGS APPEAL will provide urgently needed teaching and practice accommodation for young professional singers and string players. Please give generously. Details gladly sent. Snape Maltings Appeal Fund, Festival Office, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

WESTMINSTER Cathedral Choir School, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1. Entry for September 1976. Entry tests—candidates 7½+. Details from the Rev. Headmaster.

CHARLIE. I hope you understand. Love A.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT G. A. A. G. Wade, Metropolitan Police, wishes to thank all his colleagues, past and present, whose assistance and forebearance have enabled him to complete his service in the force.

FRENCH FAMILY seek English-speaking family, in July, willing to receive, in exchange or as a paying guest, a 13-year-old girl. Write to Mr. Pasquier, 8 rue Etienne Marcel, Paris II, France.

NURSING HOME has single room available.—See Services.

PROPERTY PURCHASE in Switzerland.—See Palmer & Parker, Property Abroad column.

PHILLIPA.—Darn the spelling, better you than Broadmoor.—Peter.

SALES RIGHTS.—Opportunities for organisations/individuals. — See Sales & Marketing Appts.

HAPPIER LIVES for lonely old people can be provided by your will. Please include a bequest for the National Benevolent Fund for the Aged, 12 Liverpool Street, London, E.C.2.

MUSIC STUDIOS. For details see today's Services column.

SECRETARY FOR IRAN. See Secretarial Appts.

RETIRED C. of E. Teachers' Residence. For vacancies see Services.

£40 P.W.—Northumberland.—See Domestic Situations.

EXP. SALES REP.—Fur Coats. See Sales & Marketing Appts.

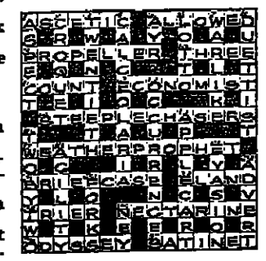
ROBERT CHAPMAN is commencing a grand tour and will undertake commissions to buy.—01-340 0261.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,237

ACROSS
1 Topers go to southern localities (8).
5 Like the kibitzer's neck at a bridge session? (6).
9 Choice between pirate and criminal agencies? (2, 4, 2, 2, 5).
11 With one of two quarters in Germany I form this art school (7).
12 Kipling's more successful impostor (7).
13 Choosy, having chosen one hundred, round about (8).
15 Girl bookseller, say? (5).
18 Oil mixture in small volume for the gripes (5).
20 So Don Quixote looked to be entirely repentant? (8).
23 Put in platinum for a change, not uranium (7).
25 Haggle with one who makes fun of you (7).
26 Non-stop percussion as grounds for divorce? (7, 8).
27 Follows bird into a back street (6).
28 Support for the ideal figure (8).

DOWN
1 Going underground for a 5 product perhaps (6).
2 Looking round for somebody's (Mr Lear's) description (9).
3 Sketch for elevation in a tall building (7).
4 What's so biting about Arden's winter wind? (5).
6 Old city features street arabs perhaps (7).
7 Flower of Ulysses (5).
8 Medmenham monk employed as furnace-man? (8)
9 It holds up jazz fans in endless elbow lifting (8).
14 Choke or accelerator (8).
16 In which Veronica teases a beefy opponent (9).
17 The setting's here in the new world (8).
19 Not only a TV "waveband" (7).
21 Ignorant of one Roman town in Hertfordshire (7).
22 River Blair, or a different water supply? (6).
24 Sacred picture that is in unusually apt setting (5).
25 Scientist was one taken in by a French priest (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 14,236



PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WILL IS YOUR last chance to Save the Children

"Save the Children" is fighting a desperate, world-wide battle against hunger, poverty and illness. For thousands of children and their mothers all over the world, we are their only help.

You can help us by writing "Save the Children" into your will, or adding a codicil. A legacy will be of immense value to us and will decrease the rate of taxation on the remainder of your estate.

Meanwhile, why not give something now? Your money can never buy anything more valuable than a child's life.

For our annual report and further information, please contact the

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND
157 Clapham Road, London, SW9 0PT.

DIABETES WILL BE CURED—BY RESEARCH

The British Diabetic Association is dedicated to finding a cure for Diabetes—remember that you too, could become Diabetic. A donation will help to find the cure. To: Hazel Bristow, B.D.A. (dept. T94) 3-6 Alfred Place, London, WC1E 7EE.

CANCER RESEARCH

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund's urgent investigation of Cancer needs your support now.

Please help by sending a donation or "In Memoriam" gift to:

THE IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND
Dept. 160E, P.O. Box 123
Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PX

MONTY MODLYN is appealing for the Association to Combat Huntington's Chorea next Sunday, 29th February, 11.10 a.m. Radio 4. Please listen and send donations to him at 2 Widecombe Court, Lyttelton Road, London, N.5. Help research defeat this incurable hereditary disease.

LARGE German style chalet/house with terrace, area 1550 or earlier, required as film location in England. Must be in hilly area with pine forest surrounding.—DGN7, WAIT, ring 01-637 5073 for your colour brochure.

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WINTER SALES

SKIERS.—The Ski Shop still has some tremendous bargains in their sale. Suits from £24; skis, boots from £18. Last day Sat., 28th Feb. 138 Notting Hill Gate, W.11. 01-229 8223. Weekdays 9.30-7.00. Sats. 9.30-5.30.

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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